



GIRL FRIENDS

[3]

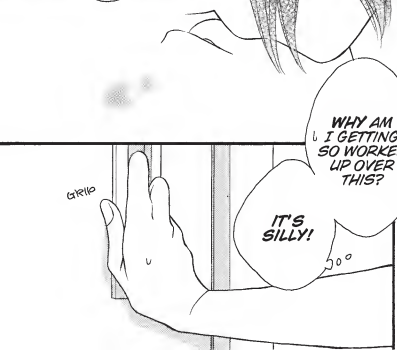
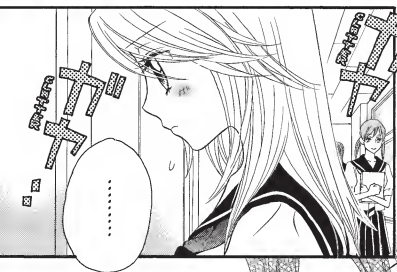
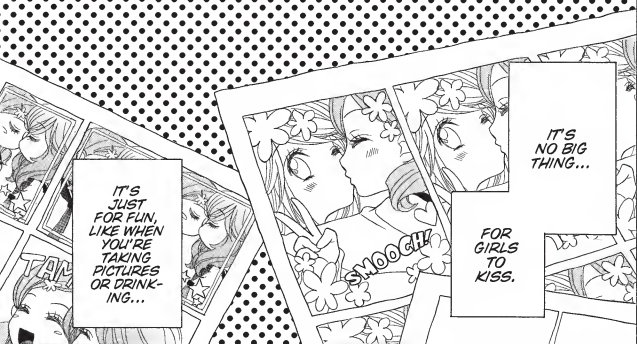
Story & Art by yuri icon MILK MORINAGA



MY BEST FRIEND KISSED ME.

[CHAPTER 15]





SLIDE
カ
ラ

IT'S
JUST A
KISS.

LATE
AGAIN,
AKKO?

MORNING!

WHERE'S
MARI?
IS SHE
ALREADY
THERE?

UMM...

GLANCE

WELL,
YOU'RE IN
TIME FOR
THE NEXT
PERIOD AT
LEAST.
LET'S
GO.

I
TOTALLY
OVERSLEPT!
IT'S NOT
LIKE I WAS
TRYING TO
BE LATE!
NOPE!

HUH?

WHAT?

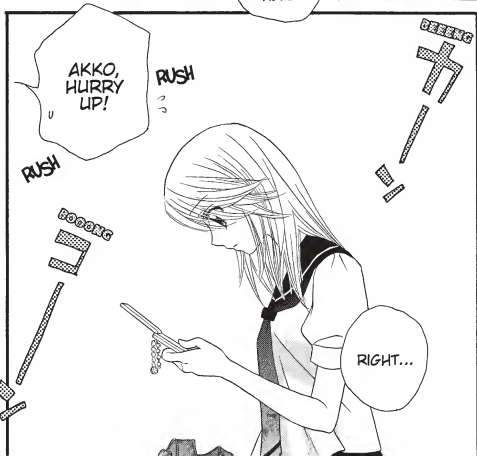
PUL

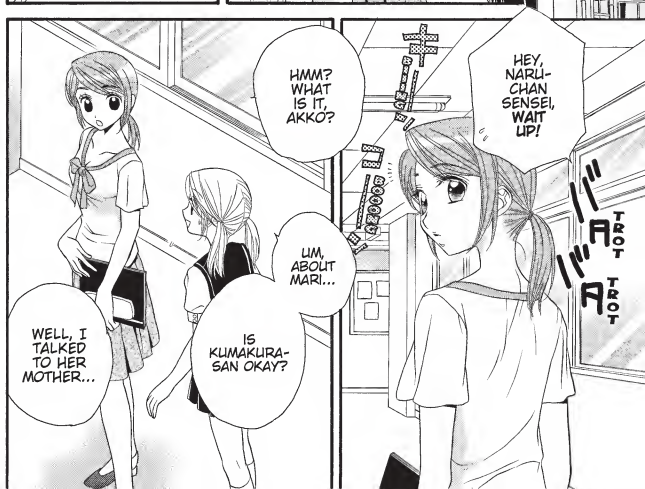
BIOLOGY
LAB.

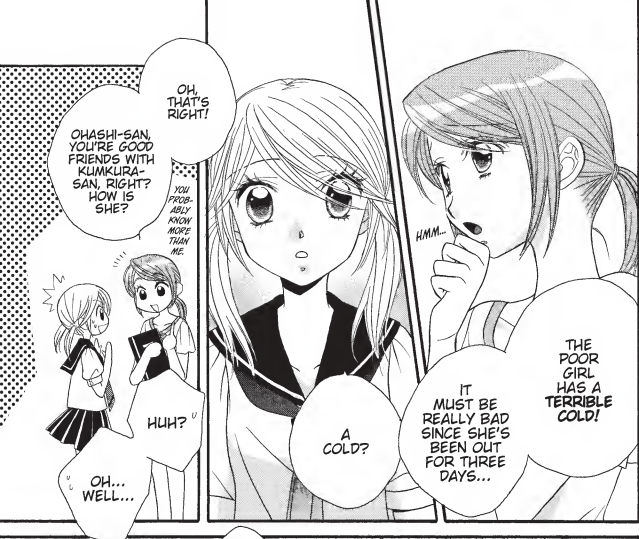
CLATTER
CLATTER

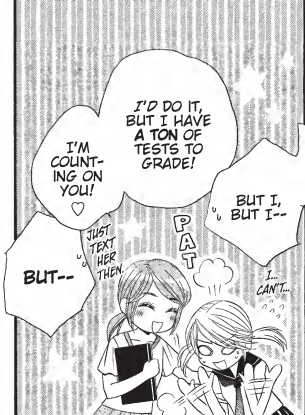
OH?

WHERE
ARE WE
GOING?





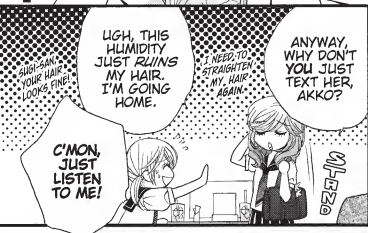






WHY
ME?

HM?



AUG-SAN,
YOUR HAIR
LOOKS FINE!

UGH, THIS
HUMIDITY
JUST RUINS
MY HAIR.
I'M GOING
HOME.

I NEED TO
STRAIGHTEN
MY HAIR
AGAIN.

ANYWAY,
WHY DON'T
YOU JUST
TEXT HER,
AKKO?

C'MON,
JUST
LISTEN
TO ME!

MEZO



EVEN
IF I
TEXTED
HER...

MARI
PROBABLY
WOULDN'T
REPLY.



PLEASE!
JUST
TEXT
MARI
AND
ASK...

"ARE
YOU OKAY?
HOW BAD
IS THE
COLD?"
EASY!

BEGINNING

WHY
SHOULD I DO
NARU-CHAN'S
HOMEWORK?
I'M NOT
EVEN IN HER
CLASS.



HA
HA...

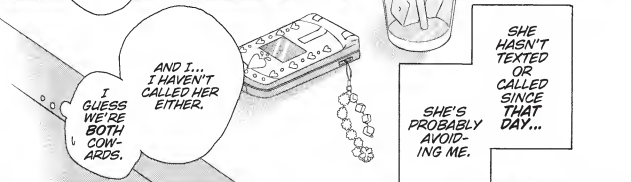
NOT
EXACT-
LY...

WELL...

SO...
WHAT'S
UP?

UHM...

DON'T
TELL ME
YOU AND
MARI-CHAN
ARE
FIGHTING
AGAIN.



I
GUESS
WE'RE
BOTH
COW-
ARDS.

AND I...
I HAVEN'T
CALLED HER
EITHER.

SHE
HASN'T
TEXTED
OR
CALLED
SINCE
THAT
DAY...

SHE'S
PROBABLY
AVOID-
ING ME.



I'VE
GOT A
WEALTH
OF EX-
PERIENCE
TO SHARE,
YOU
KNOW.

JUST
ONCE, I
WISH YOU'D
ASK ME FOR
ADVICE ON
SOMETHING
SCANDAL-
OUS.

I
GUESS
...

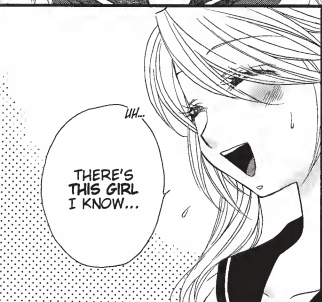
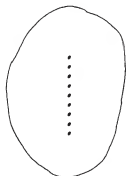
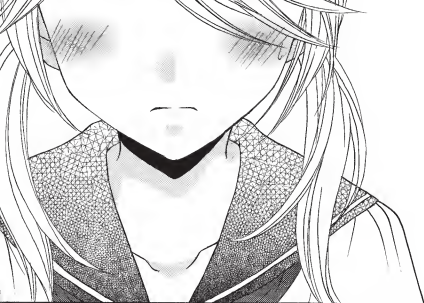
JUST
TEXT HER,
AKKO!

YOU'RE
PROBABLY
FIGHTING
OVER
NOTHING,
LIKE LAST
TIME.

BUT
INSTEAD
ALL YOU
TALK ABOUT
IS MARI-
CHIN.

TSK
TSK

CHUCKLE



UH...

THERE'S
THIS GIRL
I KNOW...



HMM, WHAT
SHOULD I GET?

HEY!

THIS IS
TOTALLY
UNRELATED,
BUT...

YEAH?



BUT HER
FRIEND...

RIGHT...

REALLY
"LIKES"
HER
AND...

AND SHE
HAS THIS
REALLY
GOOD
FRIEND.



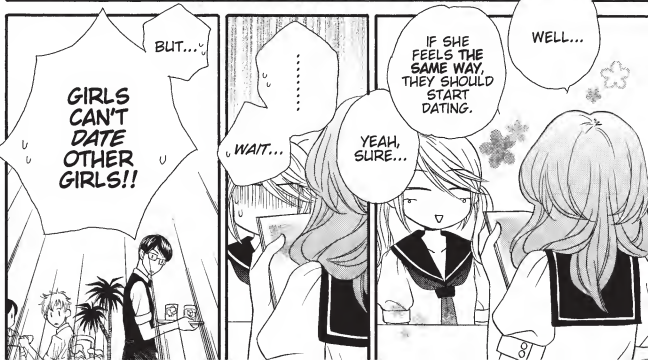
AND,
LIM...

HER
FRIEND
KISSED
HER.



SO,
SUGI-
SAN...

WHAT
SHOULD
SHE DO?



BUT...

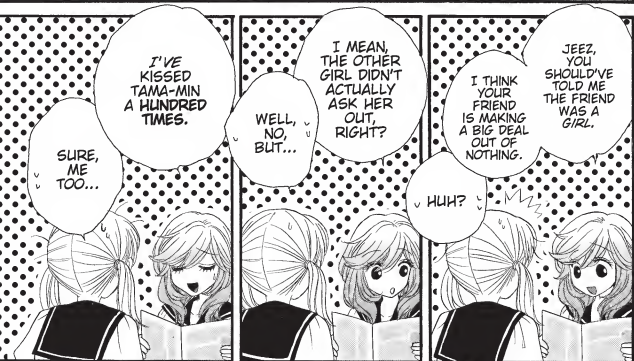
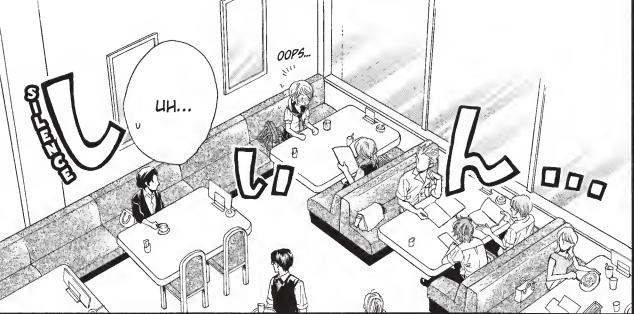
**GIRLS
CAN'T
DATE
OTHER
GIRLS!!**

WAIT...

YEAH,
SURE...

IF SHE
FEELS THE
SAME WAY,
THEY SHOULD
START
DATING.

WELL...





.....

BUT SHE
DIDN'T ASK
HER OUT,
RIGHT?

THAT'S
SMART.

GIRLS
CAN'T
DATE
OTHER
GIRLS!!

AH...

"GIRLS
CAN'T
DATE
OTHER
GIRLS."

RIGHT,
AKKO?
THAT'S
WHAT
YOU
SAID.

JUST ACT
CLUELESS.
IT SHOULDN'T
BE TOO HARD
FOR YOU,
AKKO.

YOU
MEAN,
JUST
IGNORE
IT?!

BUT
THAT'S
SO
MEAN!

EH? ..

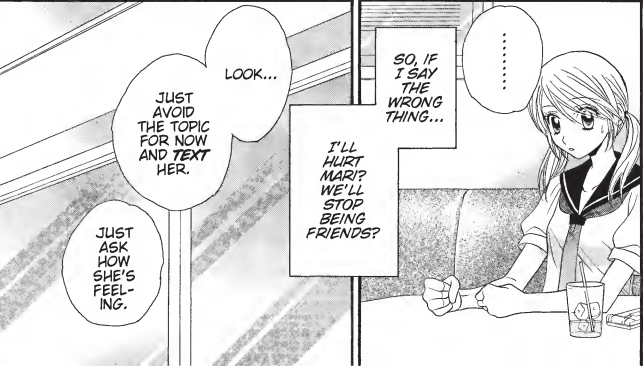
I
FORGOT,
I'M ON
A DIET.

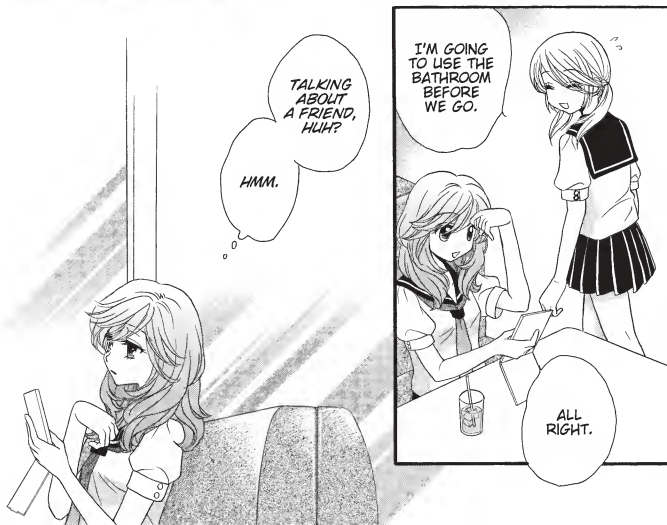
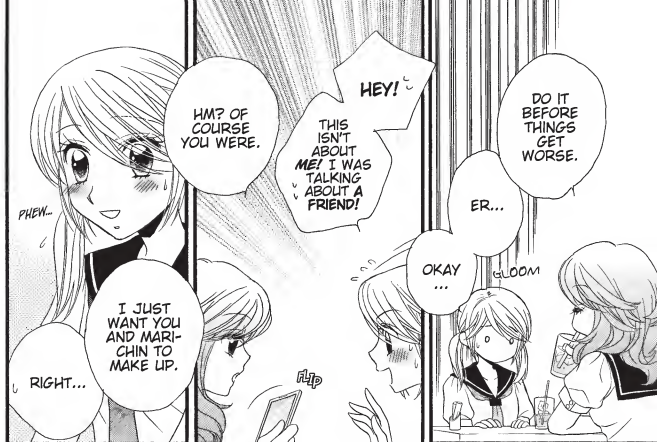
CLAP

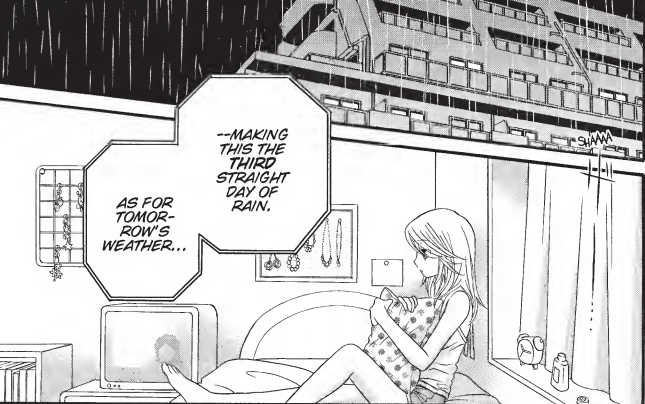




OH MY GOD...





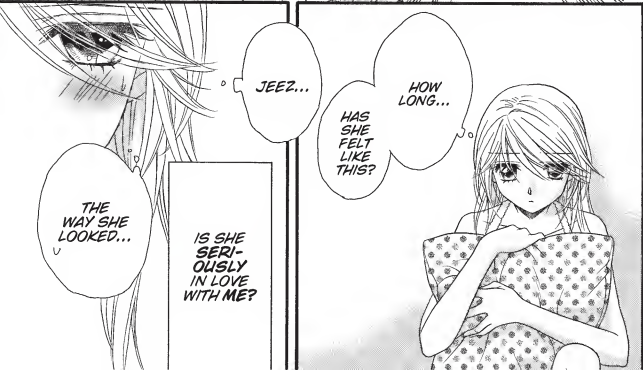


AS FOR
TOMOR-
ROW'S
WEATHER...

--MAKING
THIS THE
THIRD
STRAIGHT
DAY OF
RAIN.



MY LOVE...
IT'LL NEVER
HAPPEN!



JEEZ...

HOW
LONG...

HAS
SHE
FELT
LIKE
THIS?

THE
WAY SHE
LOOKED...

IS SHE
SERI-
OUSLY
IN LOVE
WITH ME?

WHEN I SAID...

HER
FACE...

"IF I
WAS A
BOY..."

I'D FALL
FOR YOU IN
A SECOND!"

SHE WAS CRYING. °

I'M
PRETTY
SURE...

MNNH...

~~~~~

I  
HURT  
HER.

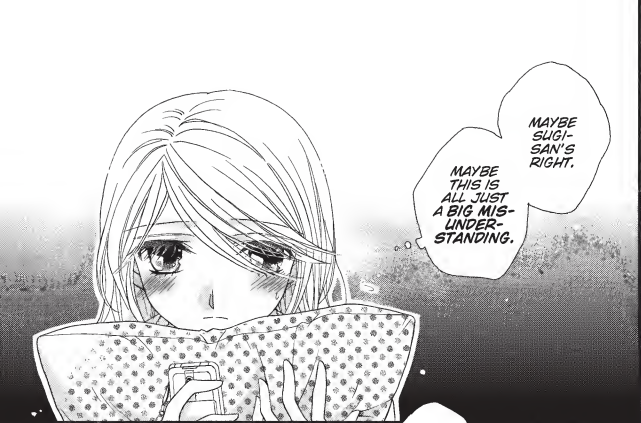
.....  
I  
SHOULD  
TEXT  
HER...

SINGLE

HOW  
AM I  
SUPPOSED  
TO IGNORE  
THAT?!

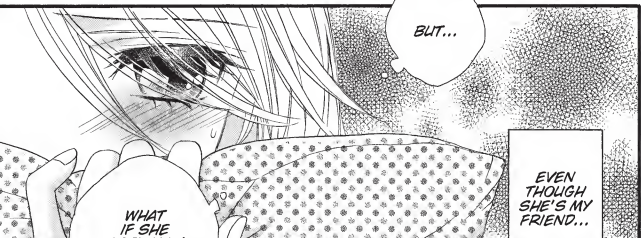
WE  
NEED  
TO TALK  
THINGS  
OUT!





MAYBE  
THIS IS  
ALL JUST  
A BIG MIS-  
UNDER-  
STANDING.

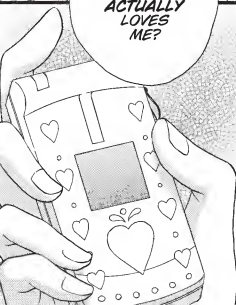
MAYBE  
SUGI-  
SAN'S  
RIGHT.



BUT...

WHAT  
IF SHE  
ACTUALLY  
LOVES  
ME?

EVEN  
THOUGH  
SHE'S MY  
FRIEND...



SHE  
HASN'T  
BEEN AT  
SCHOOL...

AND I'M  
ACTUALLY  
RELIEVED.



SHE'S MY  
BEST FRIEND...

I DON'T WANT  
TO LOSE HER.

BUT...

I  
JUST...

CAN'T  
FACE  
HER.

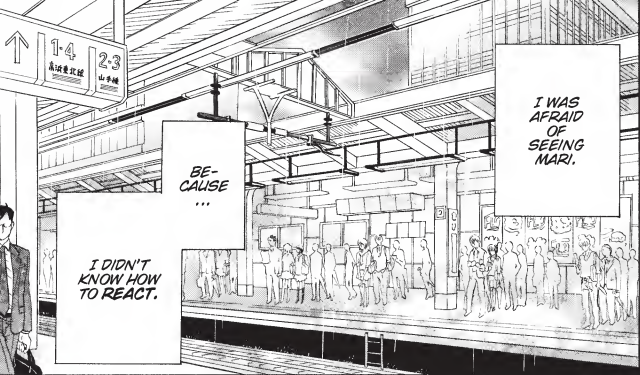
NOT  
YET.





WHAT CAN'T YOU  
LIVE WITHOUT?

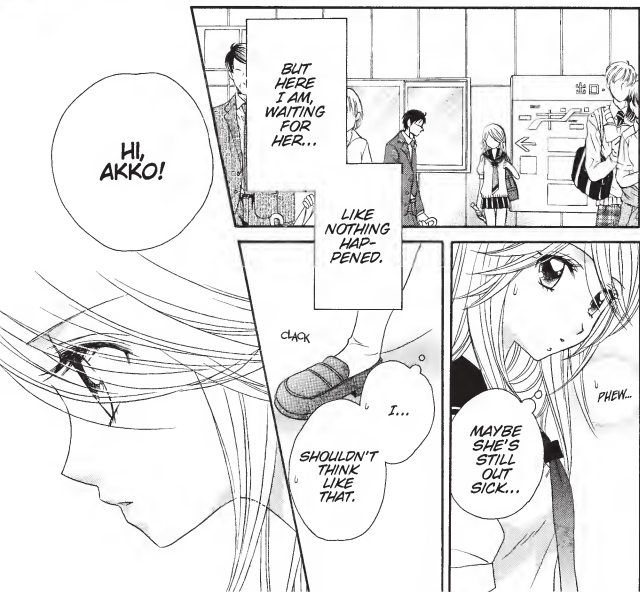
**GIRL FRIENDS** — ガールフレンズ —



BE-  
CAUSE  
...

I DIDN'T  
KNOW HOW  
TO REACT.

I WAS  
AFRAID  
OF  
SEEING  
MARI.



HI,  
AKKO!

BUT  
HERE  
I AM,  
WAITING  
FOR  
HER...

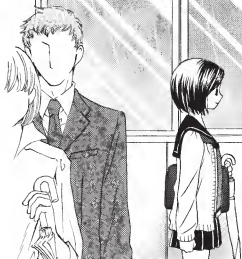
LIKE  
NOTHING  
HAP-  
PENED.

CLACK

I...  
SHOULDN'T  
THINK  
LIKE  
THAT.

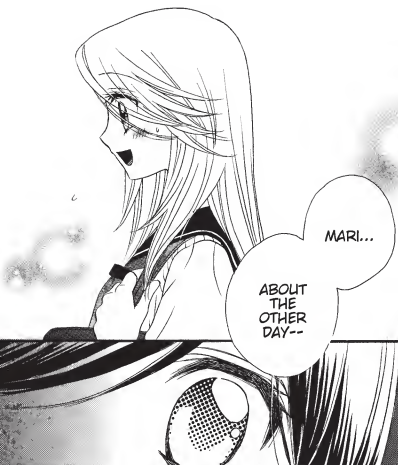
MAYBE  
SHE'S  
STILL  
OUT  
SICK...

PHEW...



AND IT'S GOOD TO SEE HER SMILING.





MARI...

ABOUT  
THE  
OTHER  
DAY--

MAYBE  
NOW'S A  
GOOD TIME  
TO CLEAR  
THE AIR...

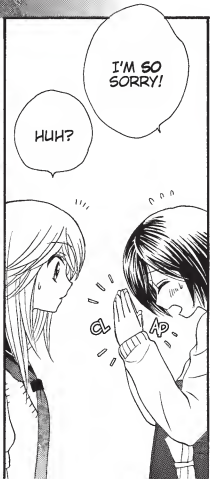
THE  
PERSON  
I LIKE...

YOU WERE  
GRILLING  
ME ABOUT  
THE PERSON  
I LIKE...

AND I  
OVER-  
REACTED.

I'M SO  
SORRY!

HUH?



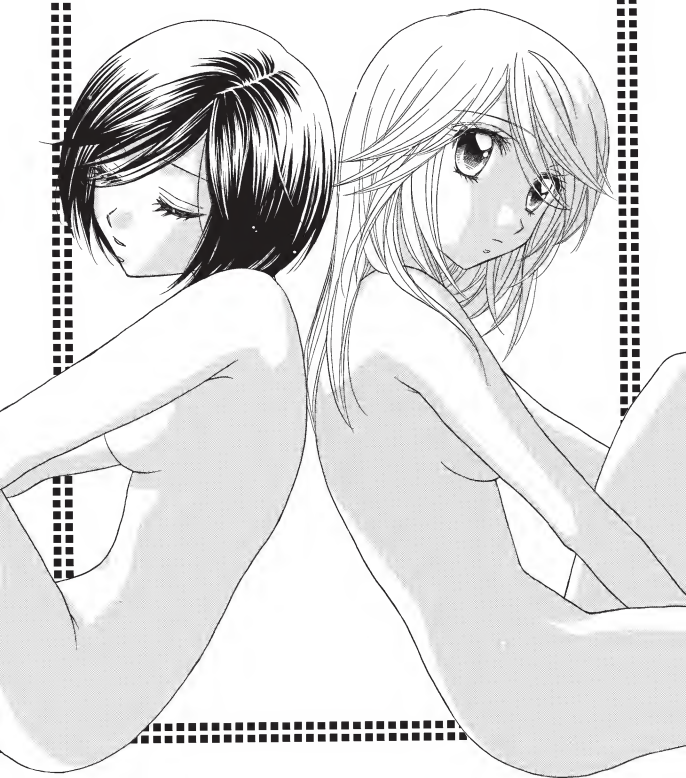


I'M  
REALLY,  
REALLY  
SORRY.

I  
WANTED  
TO TEASE  
YOU...

SO I  
PLAYED  
A MEAN  
JOKE  
ON YOU,  
AKKO.

[CHAPTER 16]





MARI  
WAS HER  
USUAL  
SELF.

AFTER  
THAT,  
SHE  
MET ME  
EVERY  
MORNING  
AT THE  
PLATFORM.

WE'RE  
STILL  
BEST  
FRIENDS,  
JUST  
LIKE  
BEFORE.

BUT  
SOME-  
THING'S  
CHANGED  
...

OH,  
YOU  
CAN  
TELL?

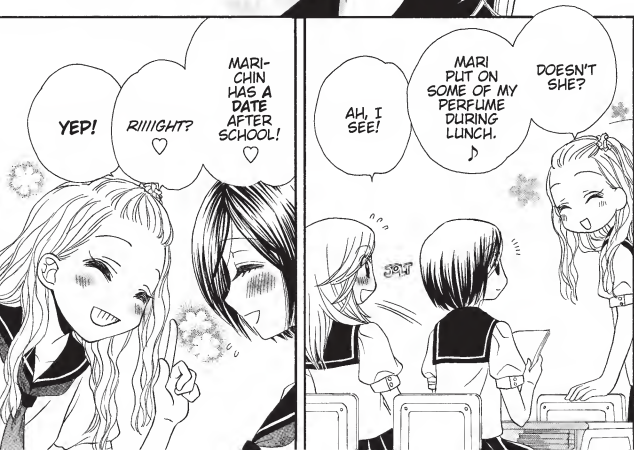
I ONLY  
PUT ON  
A TEENY  
BIT...

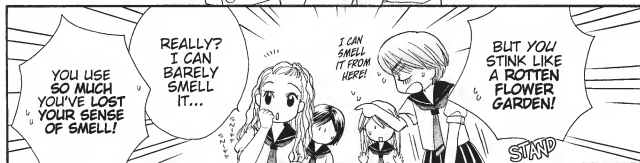
CHATTER

CHATTER

SNIFF

MARI,  
ARE YOU  
WEARING  
PERFUME?

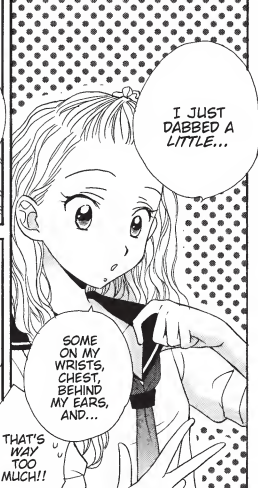




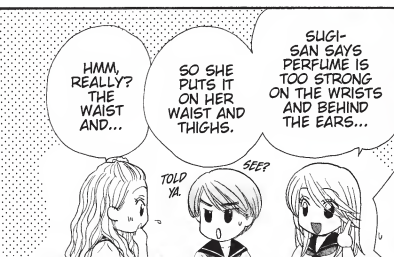




YOU  
KNOW...



I JUST  
DABBED A  
LITTLE...



HMM,  
REALLY?  
THE  
WAIST  
AND...

SO SHE  
PUTS IT  
ON HER  
WAIST AND  
THIGHS.

SUGI-  
SAN SAYS  
PERFUME IS  
TOO STRONG  
ON THE WRISTS  
AND BEHIND  
THE EARS...

TOLD  
YA.

SEE?

THAT'S  
WAY  
TOO MUCH!!



I SPRAY  
ONE SHOT OF  
GUERLAIN LOVELY  
CHERRY BLOSSOM  
PERFUME IN THE  
MORNING.

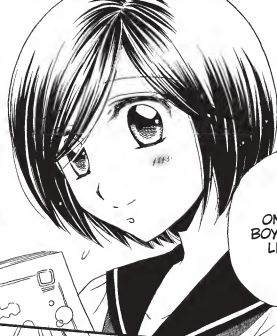
THIGHS...?

SUGI-  
SAN  
ROCKS.

HUHH.

SQUEE!

SHE'S  
GOT IT  
GOING  
ON.



MAYBE I  
SHOULD  
BUY A  
PERFUME...

ONE MY  
BOYFRIEND  
LIKES.

WHAT...?



WHAT  
KIND OF  
FRUIT?

HMM,  
MAYBE  
PEACH OR  
APRICOT...

LIKE  
ANNA SUI  
OR ANGEL  
HEART?



SINCE  
IT'S  
ALMOST  
SUMMER,  
HOW  
ABOUT  
A FRUIT  
SCENT?

IT'LL  
SOOO  
TURN  
HIM  
ON!!



TOTALLY!  
DO IT FOR  
YOUR BOY-  
FRIEND,  
MARI!!!

SQUEE!  
♡

EH?  
THAT'S  
NOT...

SO  
THAT'S  
KUNO'S  
PLAN?

JEFF...

.....

YOU DO  
KIND OF  
SMELL  
LIKE  
GREEN  
APPLES.  
IT'S NICE.

AND I  
SMELL  
FINE  
ANYWAY!

TAKE A  
SNIFF!

LOOK,  
I CAN  
ONLY WEAR  
DEODORANT  
BECAUSE  
I'M ON THE  
TENNIS  
TEAM!!

AND YOU  
NEED A  
PERFUME  
THAT'LL  
LURE A  
GUY IN,  
TAGU.

BUT IT  
WON'T  
GET YOU  
A BOY-  
FRIEND!

HA  
HA  
HA!

MARI'S  
BEEN  
TALKING  
MORE  
ABOUT  
HER BOY-  
FRIEND  
THESE  
DAYS.

TENNIS  
CLUB

EVEN  
MARI-CHIN  
HAS A BOY-  
FRIEND...

SWEET SUNDRESS  
SUMMER DATE FASHIONS

IT SAYS  
HERE THAT  
PEACH IS  
THE MOST  
APPEALING  
SMELL.

REALLY  
...?

ALWAYS  
WITH HER  
FRIEND.

MARI IN  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL.

SHE  
SAID  
THAT...

HE HAS  
LIKED  
HER SINCE  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL.



THEY DIDN'T GO TO THE SAME JUNIOR HIGH, BUT...

HE NEVER STOPPED THINKING ABOUT HER.

AND IN HIGH SCHOOL, HE SAW HER AGAIN ON THE TRAIN AND FINALLY ASKED HER OUT...

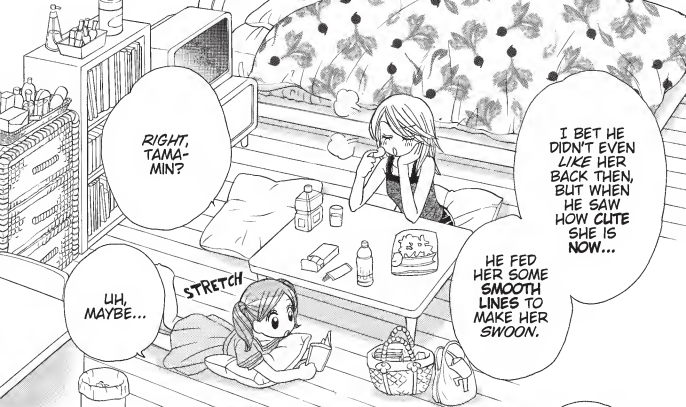
I MEAN, IF HE'S **REALLY** BEEN CRUSHING ON HER FOR SO LONG...

WHY DIDN'T HE ASK HER OUT IN JUNIOR HIGH?

HE WASTED TWO WHOLE YEARS!

JEEZ...

THE WHOLE THING SOUNDS TOO CUTE TO BE TRUE!



RIGHT,  
TAMA-  
MIN?

I BET HE  
DIDN'T EVEN  
LIKE HER  
BACK THEN,  
BUT WHEN  
HE SAW  
HOW CUTE  
SHE IS  
NOW...

HE FED  
HER SOME  
SMOOTH  
LINES TO  
MAKE HER  
SWOON.

UH,  
MAYBE...

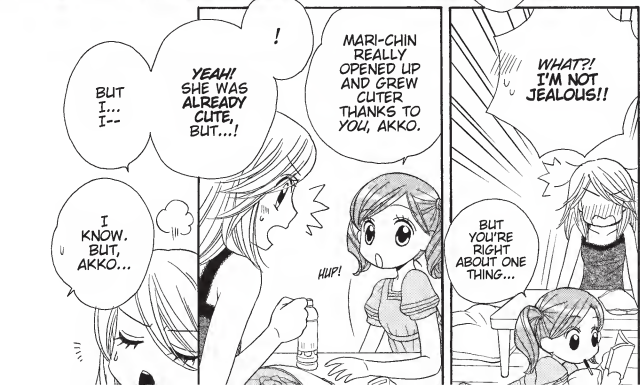
STRETCH



MUCH  
MUCH

I KNOW  
IT'S TOUGH,  
AKKO...

BUT  
YOU  
DON'T  
HAVE TO  
BE SO  
JEAL-  
OUS.



BUT  
I...  
I--

YEAH!  
SHE WAS  
ALREADY  
CUTE,  
BUT...!

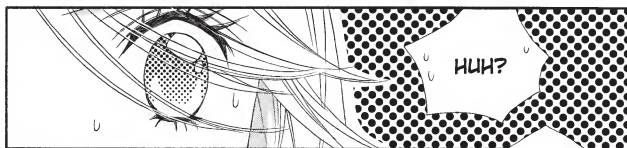
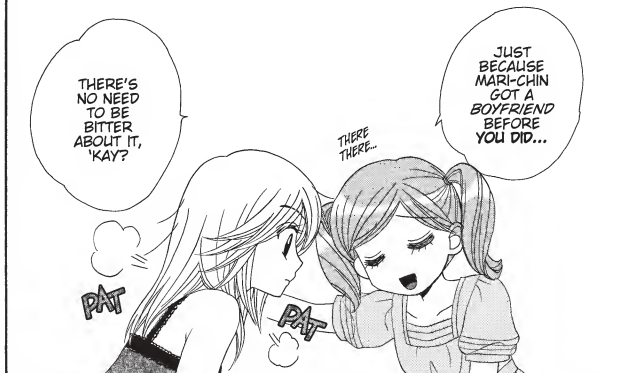
MARI-CHIN  
REALLY  
OPENED UP  
AND GREW  
CUTER  
THANKS TO  
YOU, AKKO.

WHAT?!  
I'M NOT  
JEALOUS!!

I  
KNOW.  
BUT,  
AKKO...

HUP!

BUT  
YOU'RE  
RIGHT  
ABOUT ONE  
THING...





THERE'S  
A LOT OF  
THEM IN AKIBA,  
BUT HE NEEDS  
TO BE GOOD-  
LOOKING,  
TOO!

SIGH...

A BOY-  
FRIEND,  
HUH?

RUSTLE

I  
KNOW I  
SHOULDN'T  
TALK...

I'VE  
MADE  
STUPID  
MIS-  
TAKES,  
TOO.

AND GO TO  
COMIKET  
TOGETHER!

LIKE  
MANGA!!  
AND  
COSPLAY!!

I WANT A BOY  
WHO LIKES BOTH!!

AREN'T  
THERE A  
LOT OF  
GUYS LIKE  
THAT?

IT SHOULDN'T  
BE TOO HARD  
TO FIND ONE...

SOMEONE WHO'LL  
SAY "WANDA SHOP  
AT MANDARAKE IS  
SHIBUYA" OR SAY  
"MY FAVORITE SERIES  
IS GURUEN LAGANN"

AS FOR ME,  
I'M GOING TO  
FIND AN OTAKU  
GUY WHO LIKES  
ALL THE SAME  
THINGS I DO!!

MUNCH

TANA-MIN,  
ARIAKE...

GREAT!  
IT'S ALMOST  
SUMMER  
VACA-  
TION...

OKAY!  
I'LL FIND  
A BOY-  
FRIEND,  
TOO!

WE'LL  
GO TO THE  
BEACH AND  
CHECK  
OUT THE  
GUYS!

LET'S  
DO IT!

WEHE  
WEHE.

BUT  
THIS  
TIME  
...

MARI'S  
THE  
STUPID  
ONE!!

HM?

WHAT'S  
UP?

RUMPH

I DIDN'T  
EVEN  
NOTICE...

THE  
END OF  
THE  
RAINY  
SEASON.

OH  
YEAH...

IT IS  
ALMOST  
SUMMER  
VACA-  
TION...

ACK!

BUT I  
HAVEN'T  
READ THIS  
MANGA  
BEFORE!

AKKO,  
CAN YOU  
HAND ME  
THE NEXT  
VOLUME?

LAZE  
ジロ

LAZE  
ジロ

HEY, I  
JUST  
REALIZED...

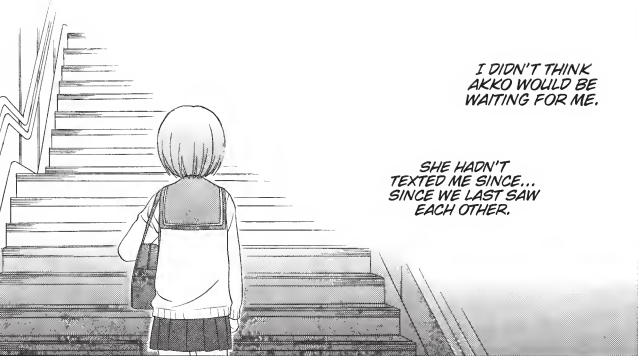
WE  
HAVEN'T  
BEEN  
STUDYING  
AT ALL.  
ARE WE IN  
TROUBLE?

WEREN'T  
WE SUPPOSED  
TO STUDY  
FOR FINALS?

HAVEN'T EVEN  
LOOKED AT THE  
TEXTBOOKS...

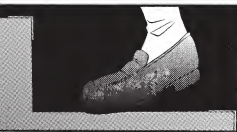
THAT MORNING...

I WAS TERRIFIED AS  
I WALKED TOWARDS  
THE TRAIN PLATFORM.



I DIDN'T THINK  
AKKO WOULD BE  
WAITING FOR ME.

SHE HADN'T  
TEXTED ME SINCE...  
SINCE WE LAST SAW  
EACH OTHER.



BUT IF SHE'S THERE...

IF AKKO IS WAITING FOR ME...



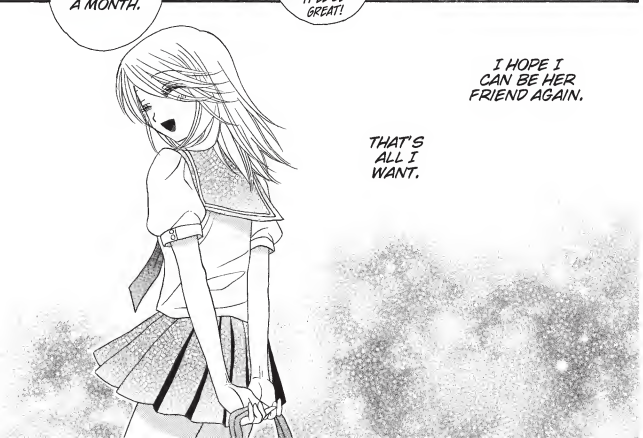
AND IF SHE'LL STILL BE MY FRIEND...



HERE YA  
GO! YOU  
WANTED  
OOLONG  
TEA,  
RIGHT?







*I PROMISE I'LL LOVE HER ONLY AS A FRIEND.*

YEAH!

I  
CAN'T  
WAIT  
EITHER!

I  
THINK...

THAT'S  
THE  
BEST  
FOR  
EVERY-  
ONE.

JEEZ,  
WHY DO  
WE HAVE  
TESTS  
ALL YEAR  
ROUND?!

UH,  
BECAUSE  
THAT'S  
WHAT  
SCHOOL  
IS.





I ALWAYS  
TAKE MY SCHOOL  
BAG WITH ME!

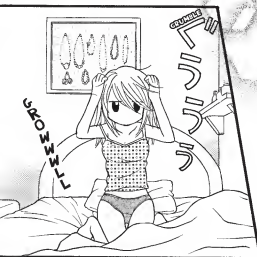
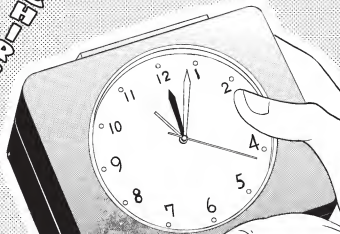
WELL,  
OBVIOUSLY.

**GIRL FRIENDS** — ガールフレンズ —

PR-EP

PR-EP

CHIRP

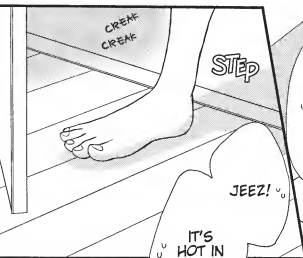


グミグミ

グミグミ

YAAAAWWWN.

SIGH...



CREAK  
CREAK

STEP

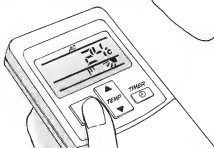
TIME  
TO GET  
UP...

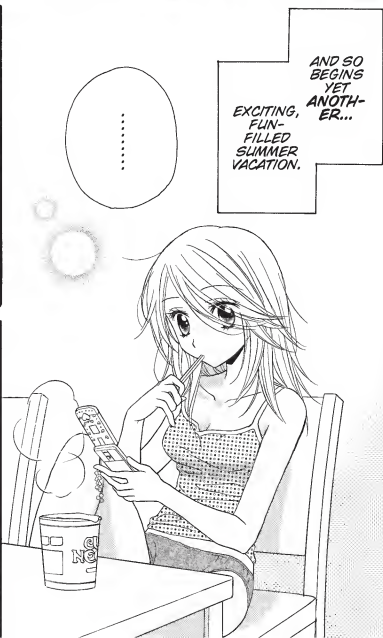
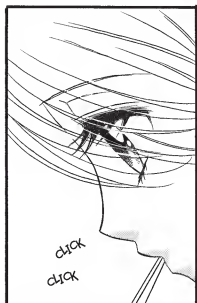
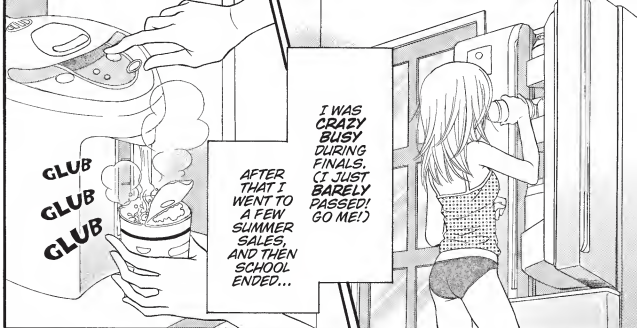
MY HAIR'S  
A MESS...

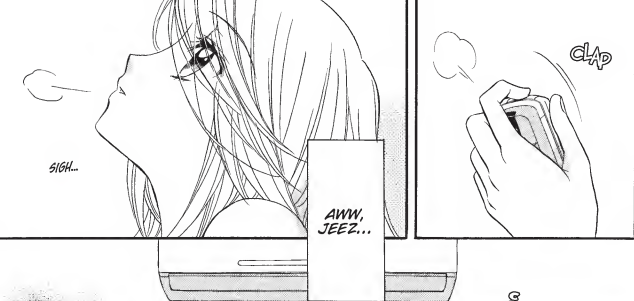
JEEZ!

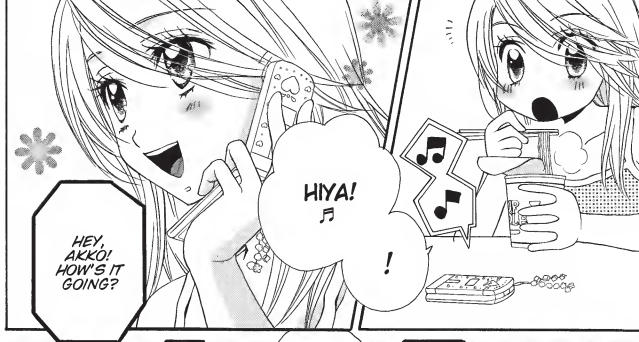
IT'S  
HOT IN  
HERE...

CLICK









HEY,  
AKKO!  
HOW'S IT  
GOING?

HIYA!



!

YEAH,  
I'M  
HAVING  
BREAK-  
FAST.

HUH?  
AKKO,  
ARE  
YOU  
EATING  
SOME-  
THING?

HAHA,  
SORRY!  
JUST  
JOKING.

HEY, ~~WHAT?~~  
WHAT'S  
THAT  
SUPPOSED  
TO  
MEAN?

OH,  
IT'S YOU,  
TAGU-  
CHI...  
DARN...

BREAK-  
FAST?  
IT'S  
PAST  
NOON  
ALREADY!

SORRY.

TRCFW



ARE  
YOU FREE  
TODAY?  
WANNA GO  
SHOP-  
PING?



NO  
TENNIS  
PRACTICE  
TODAY.

HEY,  
GET  
OFF.

HUP!

I HAVE  
TO GET  
UP AT  
6 AM  
THREE  
TIMES A  
WEEK.

IT'S  
LIKE I  
DON'T  
EVEN  
GET A  
VACATION!

WOW,  
THAT  
SUCKS!

6 AM?!





I HOPE  
WE FIND  
A GOOD  
SALE...

SWIM-  
SUITS?

YEAH,  
I NEED  
ONE FOR  
TENNIS  
CAMP.

IT'S  
KINDA  
EMBAR-  
RASSING  
TO WEAR  
THE SAME  
ONE AS  
LAST  
YEAR.

WHY  
DO YOU  
NEED  
A NEW  
ONE?

OH,  
COOL..

AH,  
GOTCHA.

IT'S  
TRUE.

I GOT A REALLY CUTE  
SWIMSUIT FOR GOING  
TO THE POOL NEXT  
WEEK! (^ω^)  
SUGI-SAN SAYS  
ALL THE CUTE BOYS  
HANG OUT IN THE  
WHIRLPOOL AREAS!!  
LET'S GET US SOME  
BOYFRIENDS! ♡♡  
(^ω^)

HEY,  
AKKO,  
WHADDYA  
THINK?

EH?

NO,  
NOT  
YET.

LEMME  
SEE...

MANGA AND  
COSPLAY!!

OH  
YEAH...

TAMA-  
MIN  
TEXTED  
ME  
YESTER-  
DAY.

A  
BOY  
WHO  
LIKES  
BOTH  
!!

SHE'S  
DEAD  
SERI-  
OUS...

IT'S  
SO  
YOU!  
♪

HMMM...

WHAT? NAH, I THINK IT'S FINE.

SHOULD I GET SOMETHING MORE MOD-EST?

I LIKE IT A LOT TOO! BUT IT'S JUST TENNIS CAMP...

WOW, IT'S REALLY CUTE!! NICE FIT TOO. ♪

YOU THINK SO? ♪ HEE HEE HEE.

THAT ONE'S TOO BLAH.

SALE

I'M GOING TO GO LOOK AROUND, OKAY?

CAMO PATTERNS USE PLAIN COLORS AND DON'T STAND OUT...

OH MAN, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

JUST DECIDE ALREADY!

WOW, SPORTS TEAMS ARE COMPLICATED.

MAYBE I SHOULDN'T WEAR ANYTHING THAT WOULD SHOW-UP THE OLDER GIRLS...

THE SENIORS PICKED ON THE JUNIORS WHO WORE BIKINIS LAST YEAR... ARE BIKINIS OUT?

SALE





OH  
WELL.

IT  
LOOKED  
CUTE  
ON THE  
RACK...

TIE

BUT THIS  
ISN'T REALLY  
MY STYLE.

FLUTTER  
KILL

IF  
MARI  
WAS  
HERE...

SEE? IT  
LOOKS SO  
CUTE ON  
YOU!



REALLY?  
THANKS!





AND THE  
SARONG  
COVERS  
THE BOT-  
TOM...

THE  
TOP  
ISN'T  
TOO  
REVEAL-  
ING...

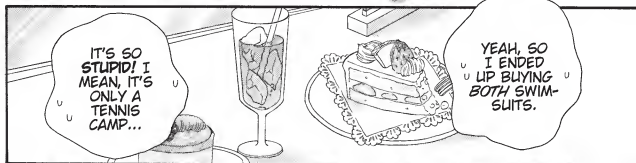
BUT...

IT  
WOULD  
LOOK  
GREAT  
ON MARI.



OR  
SOME-  
THING  
LIKE  
THAT...

I  
DON'T  
LOOK  
GOOD IN  
FRILLY  
STUFF.  
IT'S TOO  
GIRLY  
FOR ME.



IT'S SO  
STUPID! I  
MEAN, IT'S  
ONLY A  
TENNIS  
CAMP...

YEAH, SO  
I ENDED  
UP BUYING  
BOTH SWIM-  
SUITS.



LET'S  
GO NEXT  
MONTH!  
I WANNA  
GO SWIMMING  
AS MUCH AS  
I CAN THIS  
SUMMER!

AWW, MAN...  
I CAN'T  
GO TO  
THE POOL  
WITH YOU  
NEXT WEEK  
BECAUSE OF  
PRACTICE...

WELL,  
JUST  
WEAR  
BOTH.

THAT  
WAY YOU'LL  
GET YOUR  
MONEY'S  
WORTH.

RIGHT!  
NOW  
I JUST  
NEED AN  
OCCASION  
TO WEAR  
THAT  
BIKINI!



WELL...  
IT WAS  
JUST SO  
CUTE, I  
HAD TO  
BUY IT!



WHAT'S  
IT  
LIKE?!

YOU  
BOUGHT  
A SWIM-  
SUIT, TOO,  
AKKO?

WOW...

BUT I  
CAN'T BEAT  
TAMA-MIN'S  
SWIMSUIT.

YEAH,  
SHE WINS  
FOR MOST  
OUT THERE  
OUTFIT.

TAKE A  
LOOK AT  
THIS.

DON'T  
GET THE  
EARS AND  
TAIL WET.

OR  
THE BELL  
COLLAR...

A LITTLE  
OVER THE TOP?

BUT I  
WASN'T  
SURE IF  
SHE'D BE  
INTERESTED.

ESPECIALLY  
SINCE WE'RE  
LOOKING  
FOR  
GUYS...

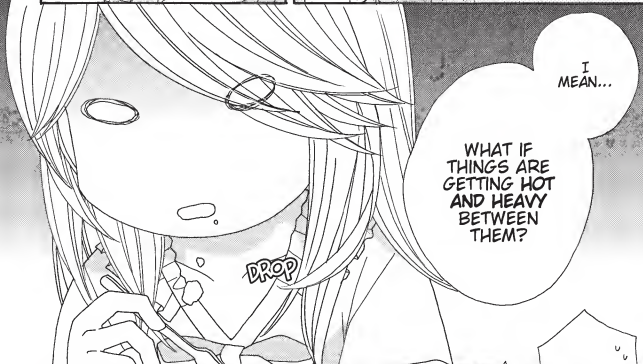
RIGHT.

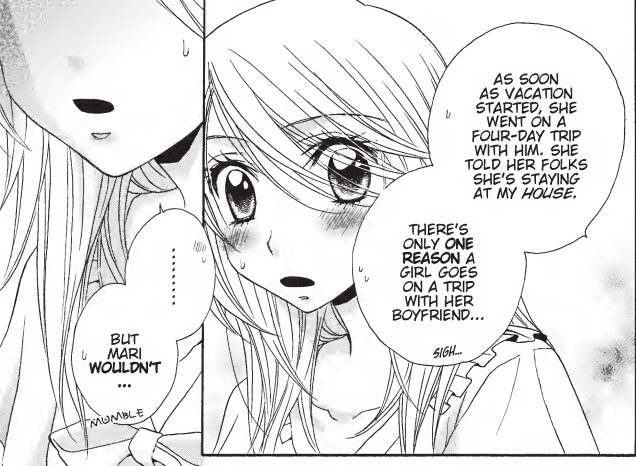
WELL, I  
WANTED  
TO ASK  
HER...

SO IS  
IT JUST  
YOU AND  
TAMA-MIN  
GOING?

IS MARI-  
CHIN BUSY  
OR SOME-  
THING?

ニギハキ  
PLUG





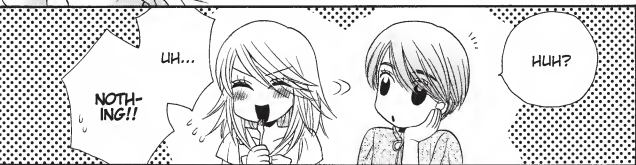
AS SOON  
AS VACATION  
STARTED, SHE  
WENT ON A  
FOUR-DAY TRIP  
WITH HIM. SHE  
TOLD HER FOLKS  
SHE'S STAYING  
AT MY HOUSE.

THERE'S  
ONLY ONE  
REASON A  
GIRL GOES  
ON A TRIP  
WITH HER  
BOYFRIEND...

SIGH...

BUT  
MARI  
WOULDN'T  
...

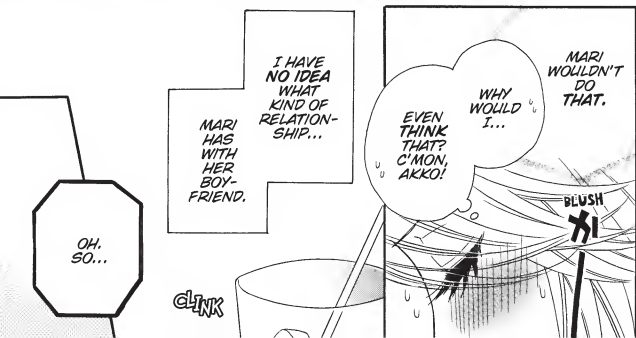
MUMBLE



UH...

NOTH-  
ING!!

HUH?



I HAVE  
NO IDEA  
WHAT  
KIND OF  
RELATION-  
SHIP...

MARI  
HAS  
WITH  
HER  
BOY-  
FRIEND.

OH.  
SO...

CLINK

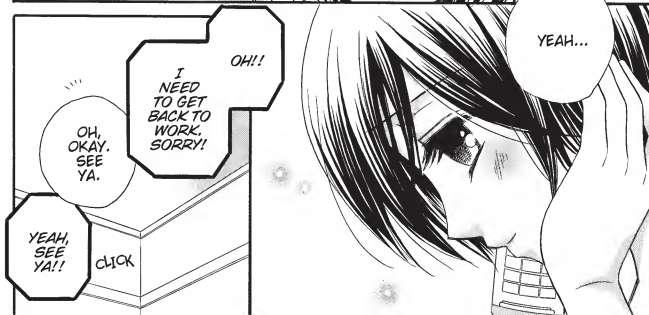
EVEN  
THINK  
THAT?  
C'MON,  
AKKO!

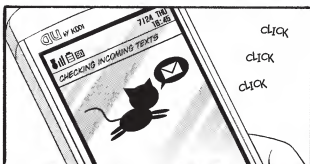
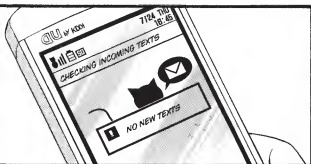
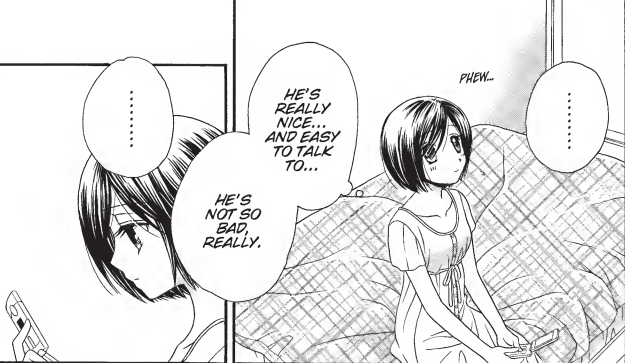
WHY  
WOULD  
I...

MARI  
WOULDN'T  
DO  
THAT.

BLUSH

キ







AND YOU  
HAVEN'T  
EVEN SEEN  
HER SINCE  
SUMMER  
VACATION  
STARTED?

SERIOUSLY?

SO YOU  
HAVEN'T  
DONE  
IT WITH  
HER...

WHAT?



ARE YOU  
STUPID OR  
WHAT?

WELL...  
NO...

JEEZ!



IT'S  
HARD TO  
DESCRIBE.  
MARI...  
SHE'S  
NOT LIKE  
OTHER  
GIRLS...

SHE'S  
REALLY  
INNO-  
CENT.

AND  
SWEET...  
♡

BUT...

AND YOUR  
DATES ARE  
MORE LIKE  
STUDY  
SESSIONS?  
YOU POOR  
BASTARD!

WELL...

YOU'VE  
BEEN  
DATING FOR  
A MONTH,  
RIGHT? AND  
YOU HAVEN'T  
EVEN KISSED  
HER?

DUDE,  
IT'S  
SUMMER  
VACA-  
TION!

AH,  
TO BE  
YOUNG  
AGAIN!

EVERYONE'S  
LISTENING...

HEE  
HEE

I  
KNOW...



HE'S  
ACTUALLY  
RIGHT  
ABOUT  
THAT LAST  
PART.

YOU'RE LUCKY  
YOU DON'T HAVE  
ANY SISTERS,  
MAN.

YOU'RE  
REALLY  
JADED,  
YOU  
KNOW  
THAT?

YOU  
DON'T  
EVEN  
HAVE A  
PICTURE  
OF  
HER?!

DUDE, I'M  
STARTING  
TO THINK  
THIS GIRL  
DOESN'T  
EVEN  
EXIST!

ALWAYS  
CAUSING A  
RUCKUS.

WHISPER  
WHISPER

YOUNG  
PEOPLE  
THESE  
DAYS.

LET'S  
GET  
BACK TO  
WORK,  
NAGA-  
SHIMA!!

44...

OFF TO  
CLEAN THE  
FOURTH  
FLOOR!

**URK!**

DON'T  
YOU  
WANT  
**MORE**  
FROM  
HER?

BUT  
COME  
ON,  
HARADA!

WELL  
YEAH,  
BUT--

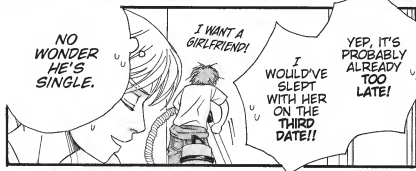


IT  
HAD-  
PENS,  
MAN.

AND  
THEN WHEN  
YOU FINALLY  
GET YOUR  
CHANCE WITH  
HER IN THE  
FALL, SOME-  
BODY ELSE  
HAS BEEN  
THERE  
FIRST.

BUT  
OVER THE  
SUMMER,  
SHE MIGHT  
MEET A  
GUY AT THE  
BEACH AND  
HAVE A  
FLING WITH  
HIM.

SURE,  
SHE  
WAS ALL  
CUTE AND  
INNOCENT  
BACK  
IN THE  
SPRING...

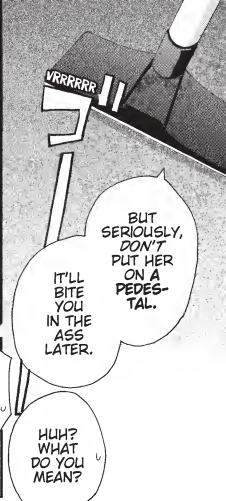


NO  
WONDER  
HE'S  
SINGLE.

I WANT A  
GIRLFRIEND!

I  
WOULD'VE  
SLEPT  
WITH HER  
ON THE  
THIRD  
DATE!!

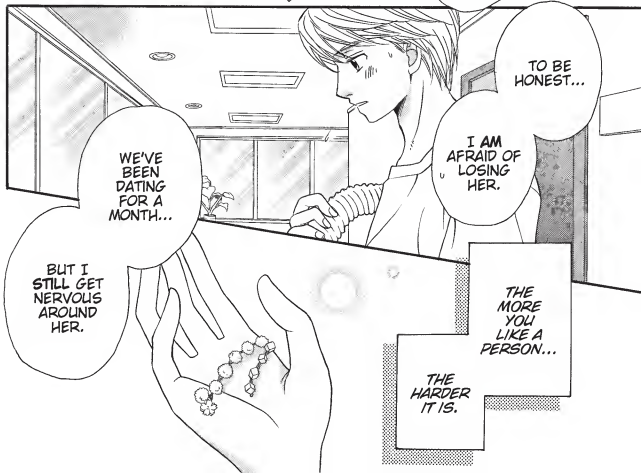
YEP, IT'S  
PROBABLY  
ALREADY  
TOO  
LATE!



BUT  
SERIOUSLY,  
DON'T  
PUT HER  
ON A  
PEDES-  
TAL.

IT'LL  
BITE  
YOU  
IN THE  
ASS  
LATER.

HUH?  
WHAT  
DO YOU  
MEAN?



WE'VE  
BEEN  
DATING  
FOR A  
MONTH...

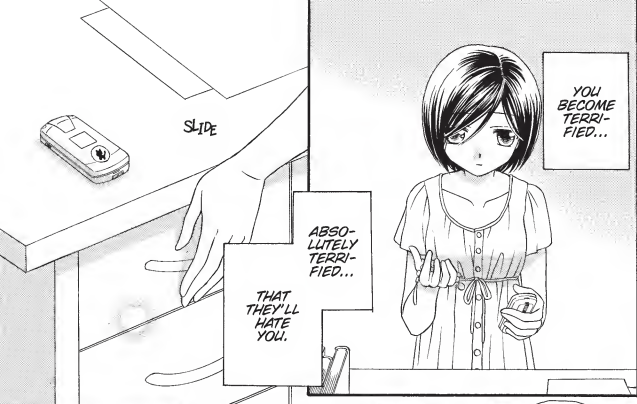
BUT I  
STILL GET  
NERVOUS  
AROUND  
HER.

TO BE  
HONEST...

I AM  
AFRAID OF  
LOSING  
HER.

THE  
MORE  
YOU  
LIKE A  
PERSON...

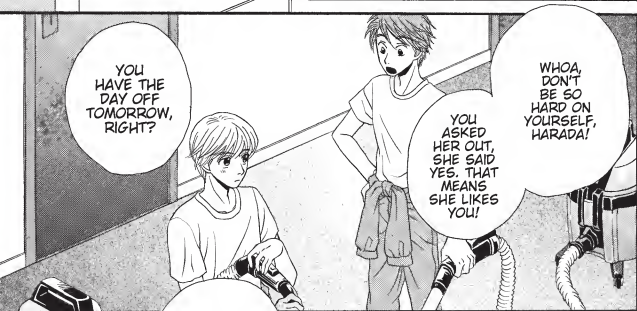
THE  
HARDER  
IT IS.



YOU  
BECOME  
TERRI-  
FIED...

ABSO-  
LUTELY  
TERRI-  
FIED...

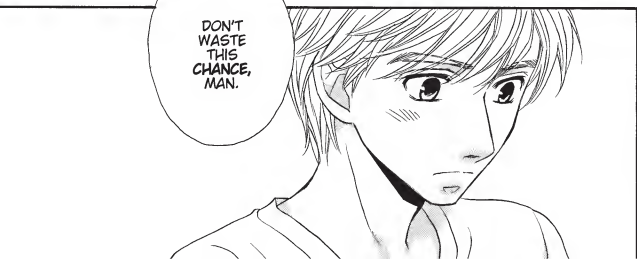
THAT  
THEY'LL  
HATE  
YOU.



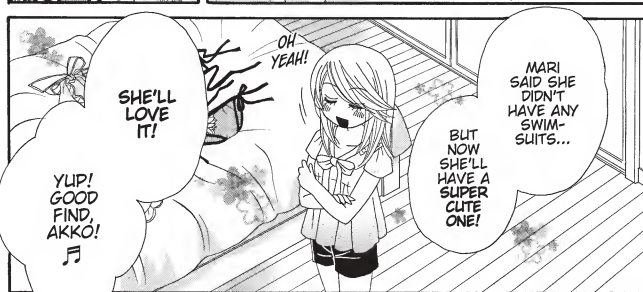
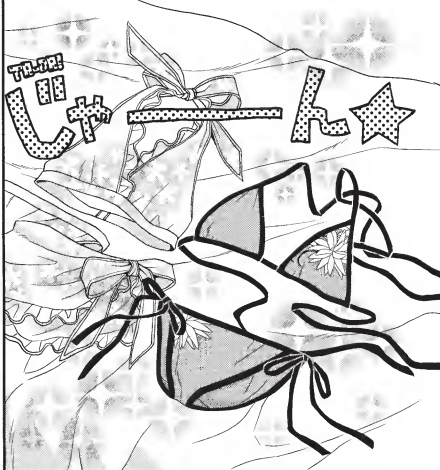
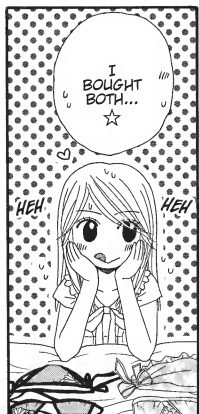
YOU  
HAVE THE  
DAY OFF  
TOMORROW,  
RIGHT?

WHOA,  
DON'T  
BE SO  
HARD ON  
YOURSELF,  
HARADA!

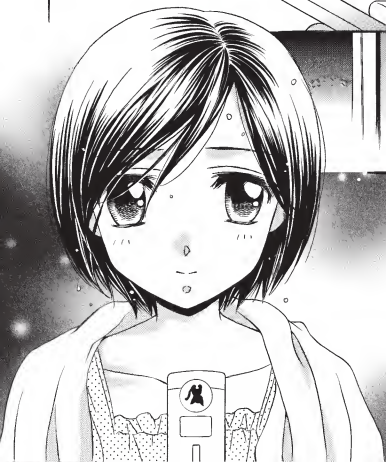
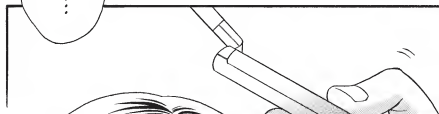
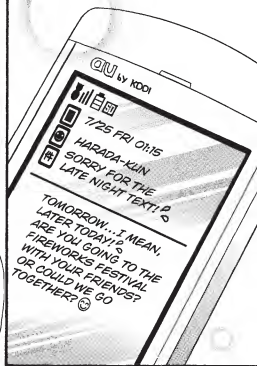
YOU  
ASKED  
HER OUT,  
SHE SAID  
YES. THAT  
MEANS  
SHE LIKES  
YOU!



DON'T  
WASTE  
THIS  
CHANCE,  
MAN.







AGAIN  
TEXT

IT'S OK. I WAS STILL UP. ♪  
I DON'T HAVE ANY PLANS  
TOMORROW, SO LET'S GO  
SEE THE FIREWORKS! ☺

I'LL JUST  
HAVE TO  
TRY...

TRY AND  
LOVE HIM.





I'M  
INTO  
HORROR  
MANGA  
THESE  
DAYS.

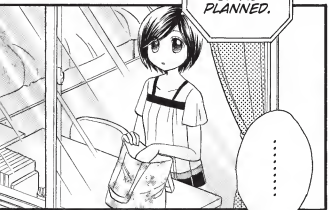
I BRING FOUR  
VOLUMES OF MY  
FAVORITE MANGA  
WITH ME!

I READ TWO  
ON THE WAY TO  
SCHOOL, AND TWO  
ON THE WAY  
HOME.

BA-THUMP  
BA-THUMP



**GIRL FRIENDS** — ガールフレンズ —



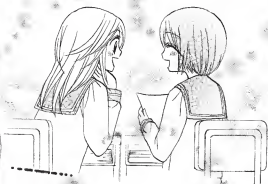
CAN I  
COME  
OVER  
AND SEE  
THE FIRE-  
WORKS  
FROM  
YOUR  
HOUSE?

I CAN  
SEE THE  
SUMIDA  
RIVER  
FIREWORKS,  
BUT ONLY  
A LITTLE.

WOW,  
THAT'S  
AWESOME!!

YEAH, I  
CAN EVEN  
SEE THE  
BIG SENJUJI  
FIREWORKS.

YAY!  
THIS  
WILL  
BE SO  
MUCH  
FUN!





YOU  
DON'T  
TEXT ME  
FOR WEEKS,  
AND NOW  
YOU ASK  
ME TO  
GO?

FORGET  
IT...

CLAP

## [CHAPTER 18]

POP

POP

MOM, I'M  
GOING WITH  
A FRIEND TO  
THE FIRE-  
WORKS  
FESTIVAL.

MARI,  
WAIT!  
YOU'RE  
GOING  
TO THE  
RIVER-  
BANK?

AREN'T  
YOU GOING  
TO DRESS  
UP FOR THE  
OCCASION...?





NO  
PROB-  
LEM--

HARADA-  
KUN!  
SORRY  
I'M LATE!

MOM  
INSISTED  
I WEAR A  
YUKATA\*...

THAT'S  
WHY I  
TOOK SO  
LONG  
TO GET  
HERE. I'M  
SORRY!

H-HEY!  
DON'T  
WORRY  
ABOUT IT.  
WE STILL  
HAVE  
PLENTY  
OF TIME!

OH  
MY GOD,  
SHE'S SO  
CUTE!!  
I'M SO  
LUCKY!!

GEE.  
YOU  
LOOK  
GREAT  
IN A  
YUKATA.

I SHOULD'VE  
WORN ONE

REALLY?  
TH-  
THANKS.

OKAY.

DO YOU  
WANT  
TO GET  
SOME-  
THING  
TO EAT?

THERE  
ARE A  
LOT OF  
FOOD  
STALLS  
AT THE  
FESTI-  
VAL.





NO...

I'M JUST HOLDING IT BECAUSE IT DIDN'T FIT IN MY PURSE.

IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOUR PHONE?

IT'S TOO SMALL.

IT WAS THE ONLY PURSE THAT MATCHED WITH MY YUKATA...

IT HOLDS MY WALLET, BUT THAT'S IT.

OH...



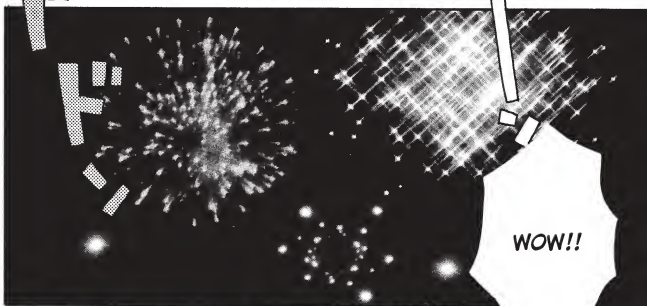
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME YAKI-SOBA?

IT'S OKAY, I GOT IT!

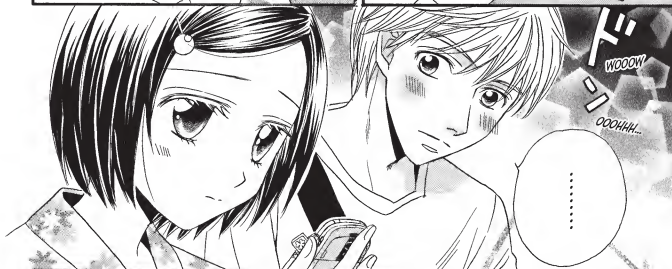
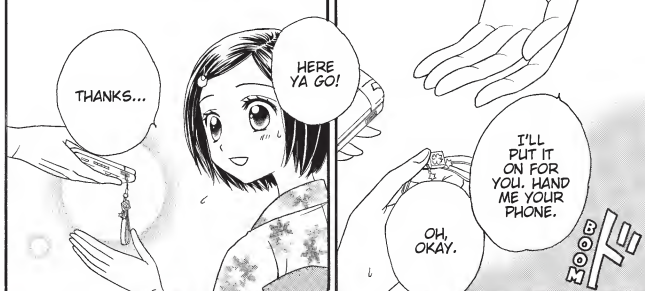
I'LL GO WITH YOU!

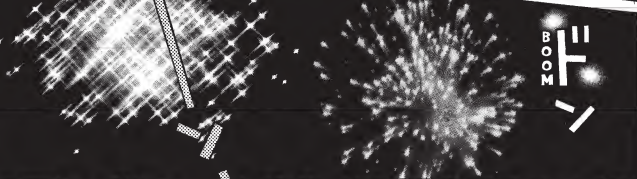
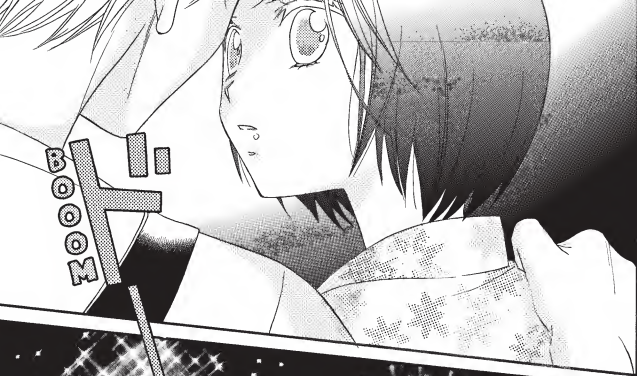
KUMAKURA, I'LL BUY SOME FOOD! CAN YOU WAIT HERE?

SURE.

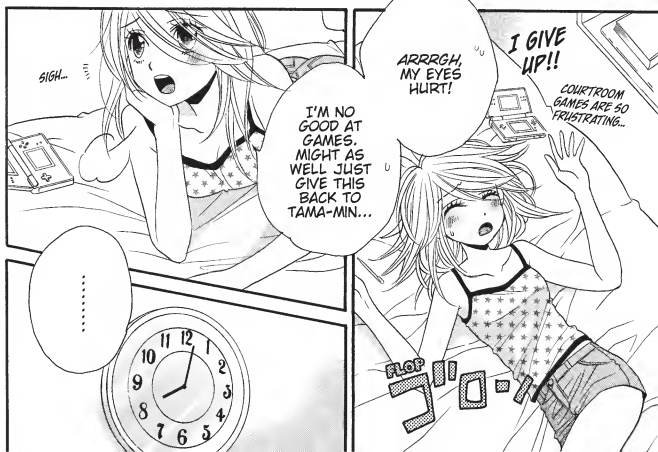




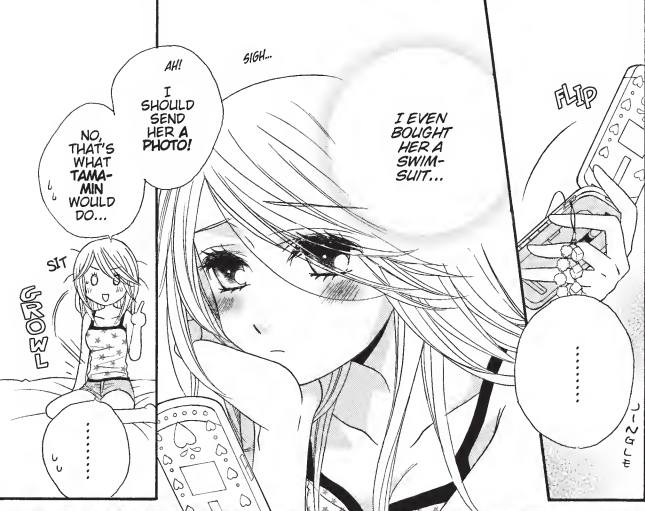












AH!

SIGH...

I SHOULD  
SEND  
HER A  
PHOTO!

NO,  
THAT'S  
WHAT  
TAMA-  
MIN  
WOULD  
DO...

I EVEN  
BOUGHT  
HER A  
SWIM-  
SUIT...

FLIP

SIT

FROM

MARI  
USUALLY  
REPLIES  
RIGHT  
AWAY.

MAYBE  
SHE'S  
BUSY  
WITH  
HER  
BOY-  
FRIEND.

IS IT  
OBON  
ALREADY?

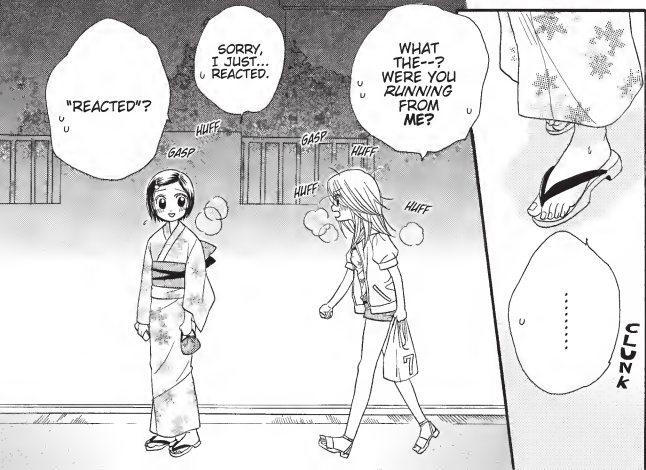
A  
YUKATA?

HEY!

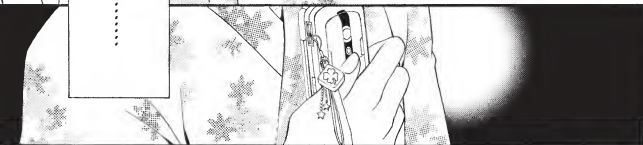
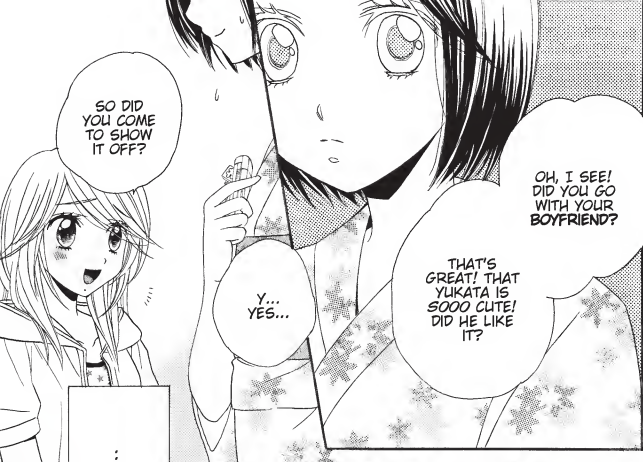
WHAT  
THE  
HELL?!

MARI?

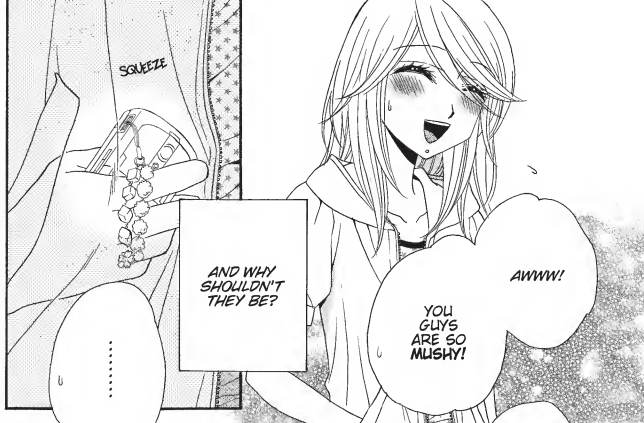
HUH?  
HOW...



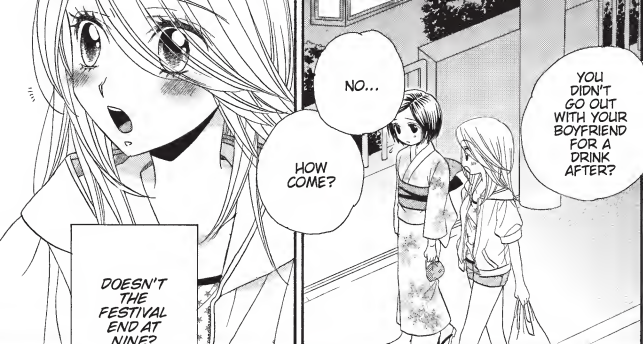










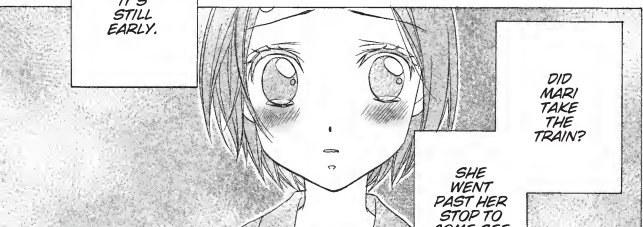


NO...

HOW  
COME?

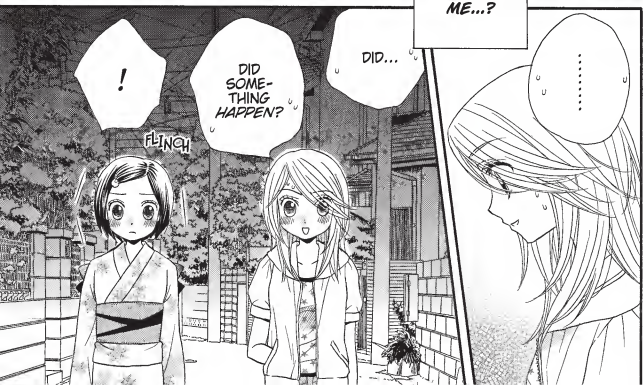
YOU  
DIDN'T  
GO OUT  
WITH YOUR  
BOYFRIEND  
FOR A  
DRINK  
AFTER?

DOESN'T  
THE  
FESTIVAL  
END AT  
NINE?  
IT'S  
STILL  
EARLY.



DID  
MARI  
TAKE  
THE  
TRAIN?

SHE  
WENT  
PAST HER  
STOP TO  
COME SEE  
ME...?



!

DID  
SOME-  
THING  
HAPPEN?

DID...

FLINCH

...



N-  
NO, IT  
WASN'T  
LIKE  
THAT...

HUH?

GRAB

TURN

ARE  
YOU  
OKAY,  
MARI?!

DID  
YOUR  
BOY-  
FRIEND  
DO  
SOME-  
THING?!

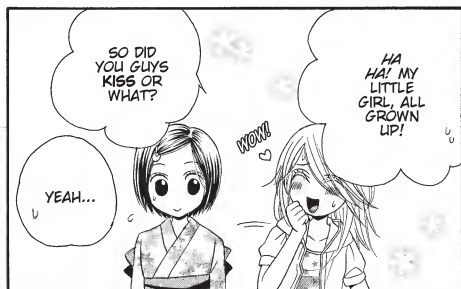
AH!



I  
MEAN,  
WE ARE  
GOING  
OUT.

I  
KNOW...

IT'S A  
NORMAL  
THING  
TO DO.



SO DID  
YOU GUYS  
KISS OR  
WHAT?

YEAH...

WOW!

HA  
HA! MY  
LITTLE  
GIRL, ALL  
GROWN  
UP!



DID...

DID  
YOU  
TWO  
GO ALL  
THE  
WAY?

.....  
AH, I  
SEE.

SURE,  
BUT...

OH...

...YES.

BA-THUMP

I  
DON'T  
THINK  
SO.

AREN'T  
YOU MOVING  
A BIT FAST?  
YOU'VE ONLY  
BEEN DATING  
FOR A MONTH...

I  
MEAN...

YOU'VE  
DONE IT.  
RIGHT,  
AKKO?

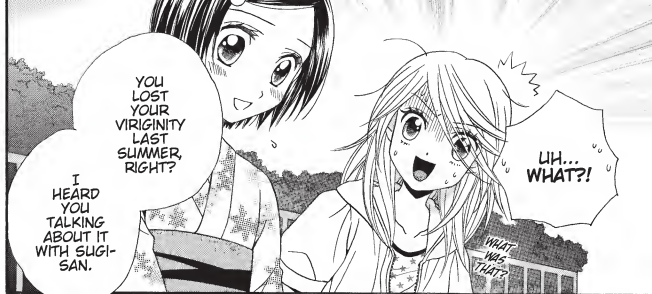
BA-THUMP

WOW,  
SERI-  
OUSLY?

THERE'S  
ONLY ONE  
THING A  
GIRL DOES  
WITH HER  
BOY-  
FRIEND...

TAGU

BA-THUMP

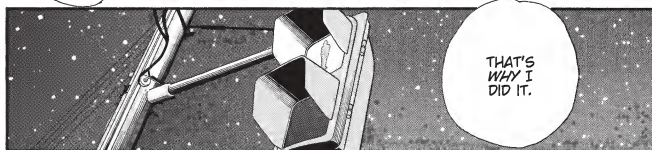


YOU  
LOST  
YOUR  
VIRGINITY  
LAST  
SUMMER,  
RIGHT?

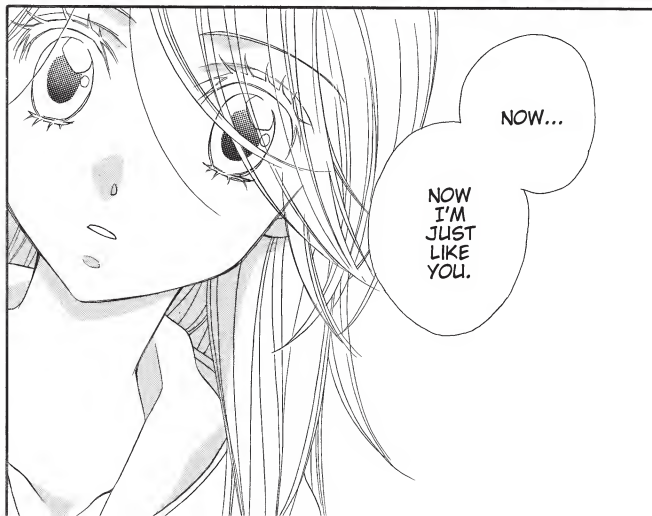
I  
HEARD  
YOU  
TALKING  
ABOUT  
IT  
WITH SUGI-  
SAN.

UH...  
WHAT?!

WHAT  
WAS  
THAT?



THAT'S  
WHY I  
DID IT.



NOW...

NOW  
I'M  
JUST  
LIKE  
YOU.



I ALWAYS BRING MY  
DEODORANT WITH ME.

I'M ON A  
SPORTS TEAM...  
SO IT'S KINDA  
IMPORTANT...



**GIRL FRIENDS** — ガールフレンズ —



[CHAPTER 19]





UHM...

HAVE YOU  
EATEN DINNER  
YET, MARI? I'M  
STARVING!

TAKE  
A SEAT!

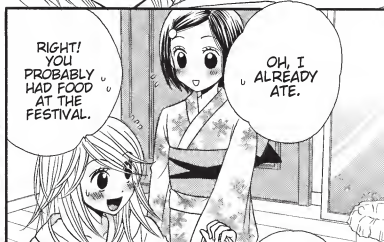
SORRY,  
IT'S A  
MESS IN  
HERE.



TP

TP

TP...



RIGHT!  
YOU  
PROBABLY  
HAD FOOD  
AT THE  
FESTIVAL.

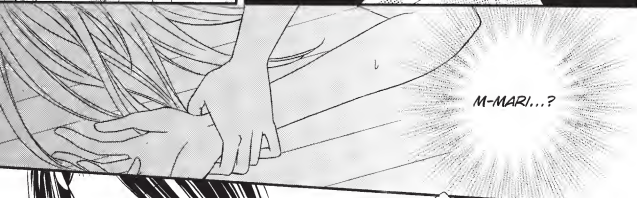
OH, I  
ALREADY  
ATE.



I'LL BE  
RIGHT BACK.  
JUST NEED  
TO WARM  
UP MY  
DINNER!

SURE  
YES,  
THANK  
YOU...

WOULD  
YOU LIKE  
SOME TEA,  
MARI?

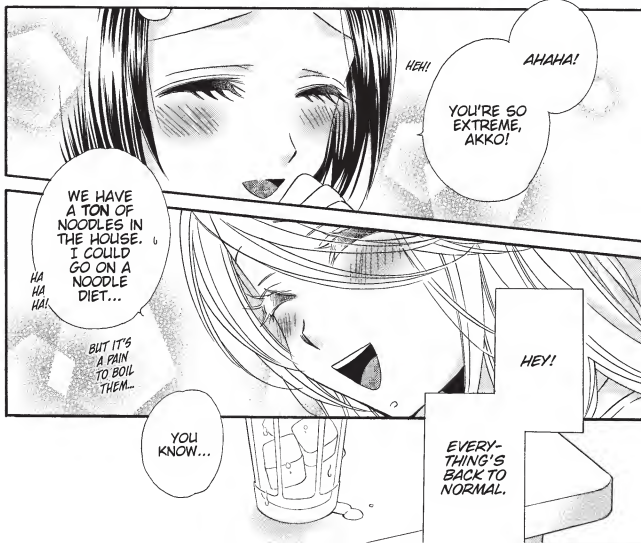
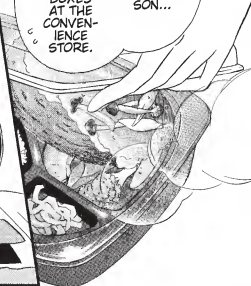


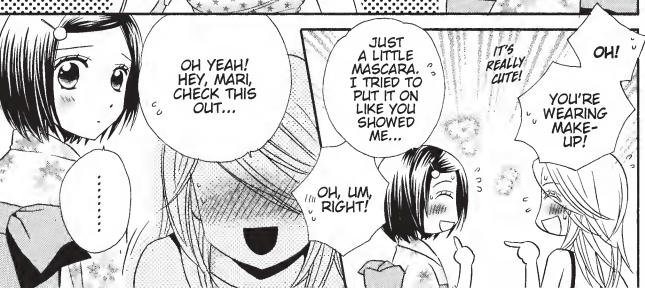
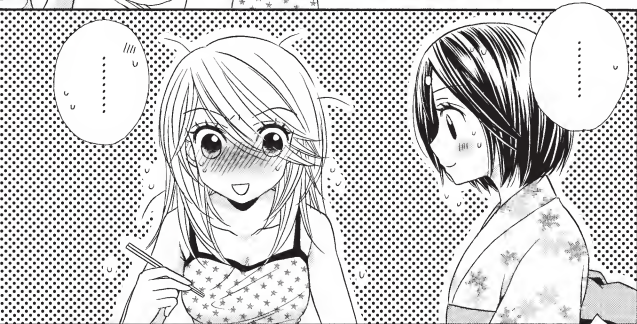
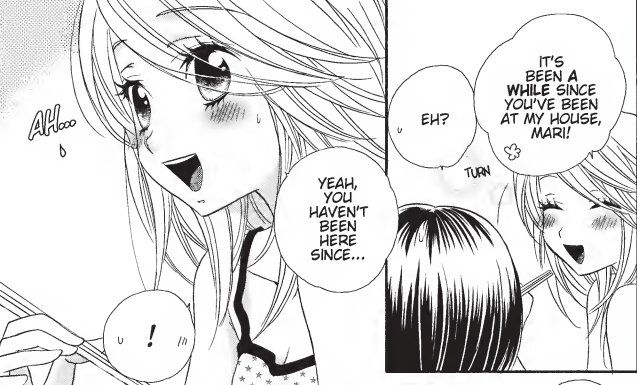


POP

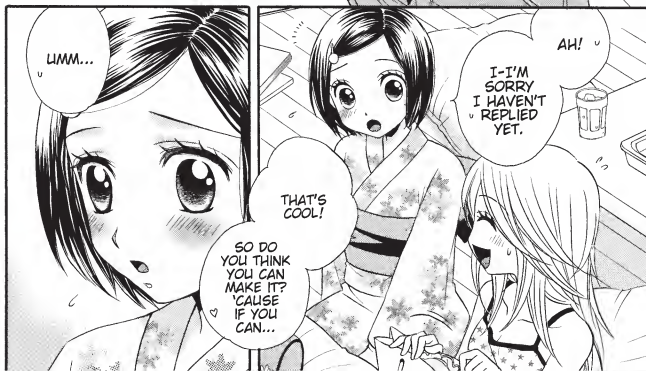
SO I END UP BUYING BENTO BOXES AT THE CONVENIENCE STORE.

IT'S A PAIN COOKING FOR JUST ONE PERSON...

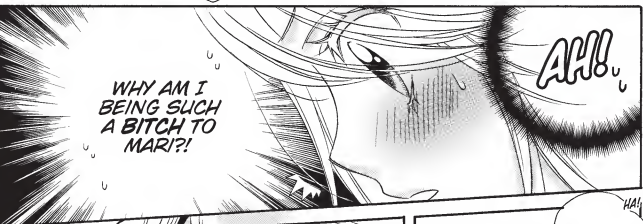
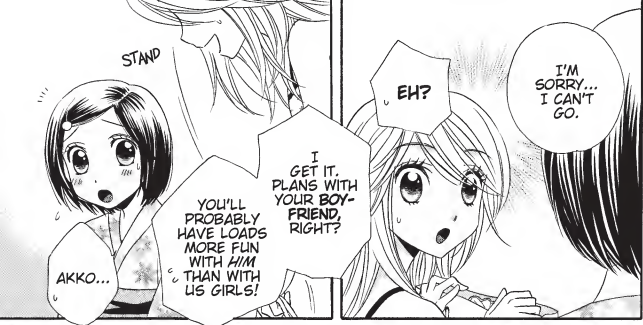


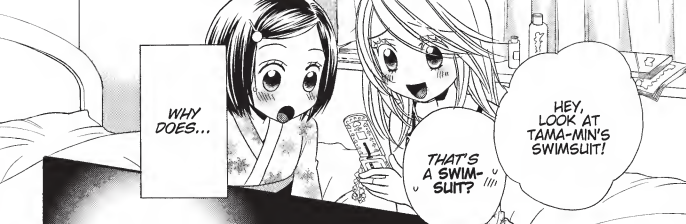












WHY  
DOES...

THAT'S  
A SWIM-  
SUIT?

HEY,  
LOOK AT  
TAMA-MIN'S  
SWIMSUIT!

MY HEART  
HURT SO  
MUCH...?

ISN'T IT  
CRAZY?

YOU--

YOU  
COULD  
SLEEP  
OVER!!



OH, IT'S  
GETTING  
LATE.

I  
SHOULD  
HEAD  
HOME.

WHAT?  
"ALREADY?"



SORRY  
FOR  
DROPPING  
BY OUT  
OF THE  
BLUE...

HEY,  
WAIT.

MARI  
...!

THANKS,  
BY THE  
WAY!

HUH?

I KNOW  
YOU DON'T  
LIKE TO  
CALL MY  
HOME  
PHONE.

FOR  
CALLING  
MY PAR-  
ENTS.

OH,  
SURE.

HOW  
ABOUT  
THESE  
PAJAMAS?

DID YOU  
WANT TO  
TAKE A  
BATH...?

NO  
THANKS.  
I'M PRETTY  
TIRED...

BATHING

I DIDN'T  
WANT YOUR  
FOLKS TO  
GET THE  
WRONG  
IDEA.

I MEAN,  
SINCE YOU  
HAVE A  
BOYFRIEND  
NOW...

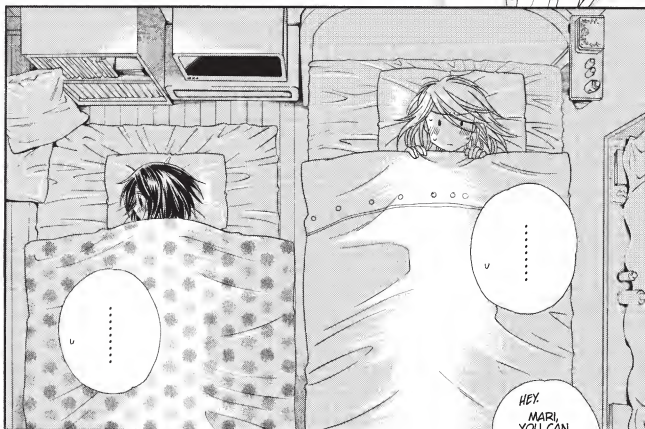
AKKO,  
NOW I'M  
JUST LIKE  
YOU.



NN...



FLINCH



HEY.

MARI,  
YOU CAN  
PUT ON A  
YUKATA BY  
YOURSELF?  
THAT'S  
PRETTY  
COOL.

AH...

IT'S  
NOT  
THAT  
HARD.

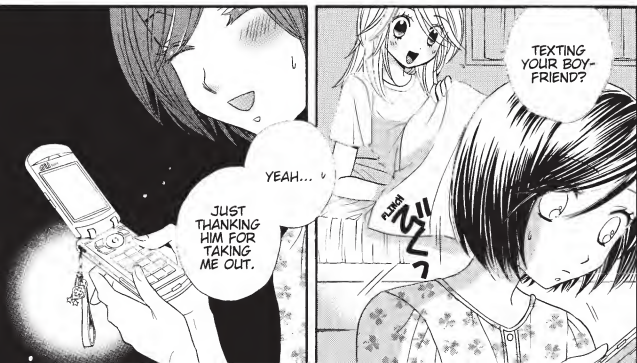
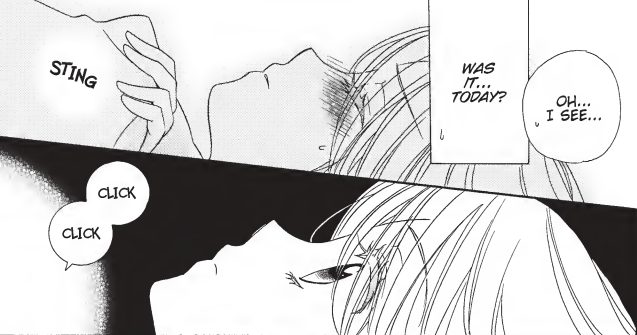
WHEN  
DID IT  
HAPPEN?  
AND  
WHERE?

IT  
DIDN'T  
TAKE ME  
VERY  
LONG.

GRIP

NOW  
WOULD  
BE THE  
TIME TO  
ASK WHAT  
HAPPENED  
BETWEEN  
MARI AND  
HER BOY-  
FRIEND...

BUT...







GOOD  
NIGHT...



G'NIGHT!

I'M  
GOING  
TO  
SLEEP!

OH...  
OKAY...  
WELL...





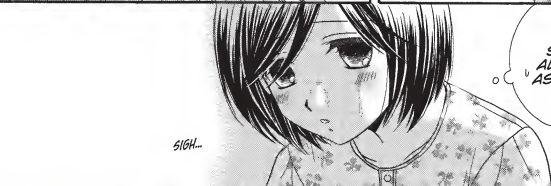


UH...



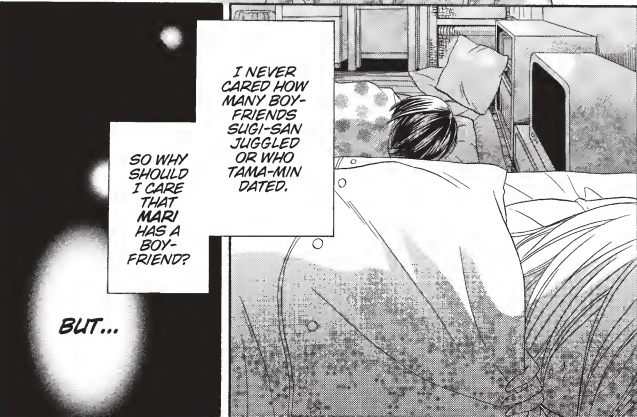
OH!

AKKO,  
I WANTED  
TO TELL  
YOU--



SIGH...

SHE'S  
ALREADY  
ASLEEP...



I NEVER  
CARED HOW  
MANY BOY-  
FRIENDS  
SUGI-SAN  
JUGGLED  
OR WHO  
TAMA-MIN  
DATED.

SO WHY  
SHOULD  
I CARE  
THAT  
MARI  
HAS A  
BOY-  
FRIEND?

BUT...



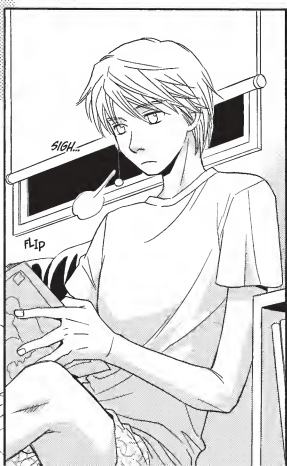
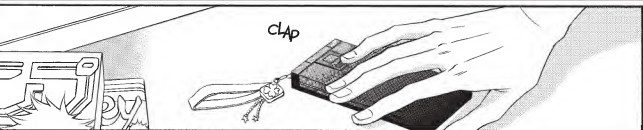
I DON'T  
UNDER-  
STAND.



WHY...



WHY  
DOES IT  
FEEL  
LIKE MY  
HEART'S  
BEEN  
CRUSHED?







HEY,  
LADIES!

LONG  
TIME  
NO SEE!  
HOW'S IT  
GOING?

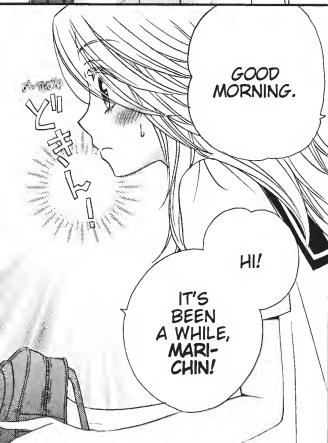
I  
KNOW!

“WHOA!”

TAGUCHI,  
YOU'RE SO  
BURNT!!

YOU'RE  
PEELING!!

YAAAAH!



GOOD  
MORNING.

HI!

IT'S  
BEEN  
A WHILE,  
MARI-  
CHIN!



YOU LOOK  
LIKE A  
LOBSTER!

OH  
MAN,  
THAT  
SUCKS!

SHE  
FORGOT  
TO TAKE  
SUNBLOCK  
TO THE  
TENNIS  
CAMP.

I FORGOT  
IT DURING  
REGULAR  
PRACTICES,  
TOO...

HEH...



HUH?  
YOU  
HAVE?

MARI-  
CHIN, WE'VE  
BEEN WAITING  
FOR YOU!!

THIS  
MORNING,  
WE DIDN'T  
TEXT EACH  
OTHER OR  
MEET AT  
THE PLAT-  
FORM.

BA-THUMP

AND  
MARI  
DIDN'T  
SHOW  
UP AT  
THE  
USUAL  
TIME...

SO I  
GOT ON  
THE TRAIN  
WITHOUT  
HER.

YEAH!  
YOU  
GOTTA  
HELP US  
OUT!

BA-THUMP

DID YOU  
DO ALL THE  
SUMMER  
ASSIGNMENTS?  
I ONLY GOT  
HALFWAY  
THROUGH  
THE MATH  
PROBLEMS.

YEAH,  
ME  
TOO...

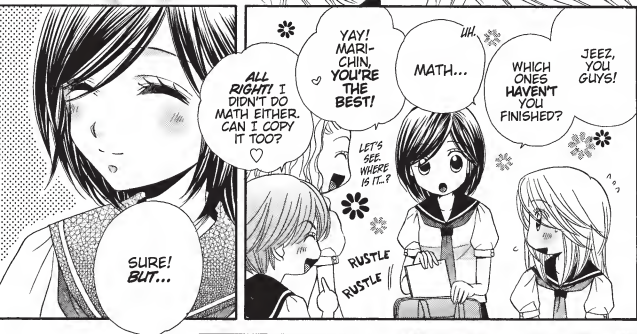
WHAT?

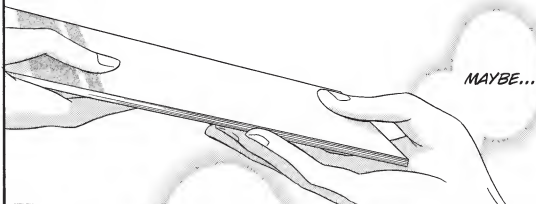
BA-THUMP

AKKO?

DID YOU  
DO ALL  
YOUR  
HOME-  
WORK?







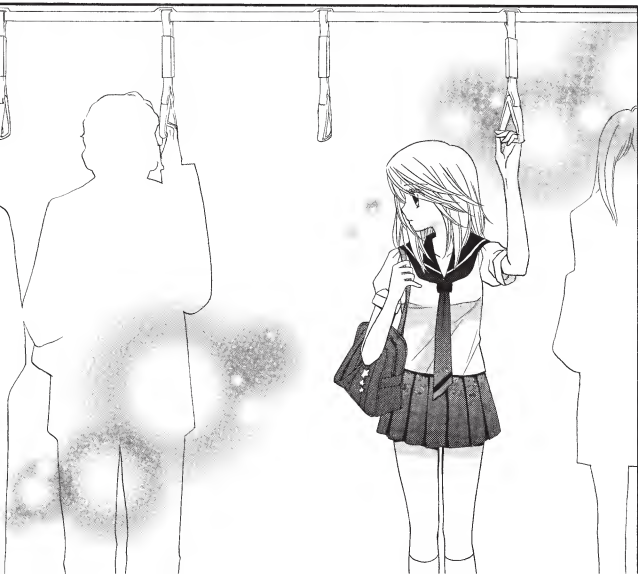
MAYBE  
WE CAN...

STILL  
BE BEST  
FRIENDS...?

THANKS!

I  
HOPE  
MARI  
THINKS  
SO  
TOO.

THE  
OTHER  
GIRLS  
PROBABLY  
THINK  
NOTHING'S  
CHANGED  
BETWEEN  
US.





PERFORM?

SO  
TAMAMIN  
SAYS...

SHE'S  
GOING TO  
PERFORM  
AT THE  
NEXT  
SCHOOL  
FESTIVAL.

SHE'S  
IN THE  
MANGA  
CLUB,  
RIGHT?



AH...

EXCUSE  
ME!

NO  
PROBLEM!

TAKE  
YOUR  
TIME.



I  
DON'T  
KNOW...

OR  
COS-  
PLAY?

IS IT  
SOMETHING  
RELATED  
TO MANGA  
OR ANIME?

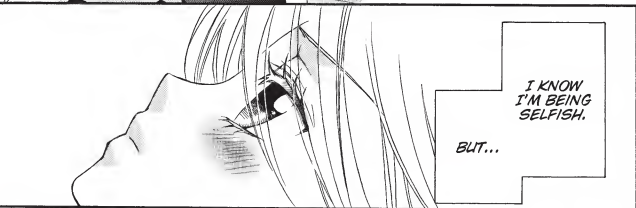
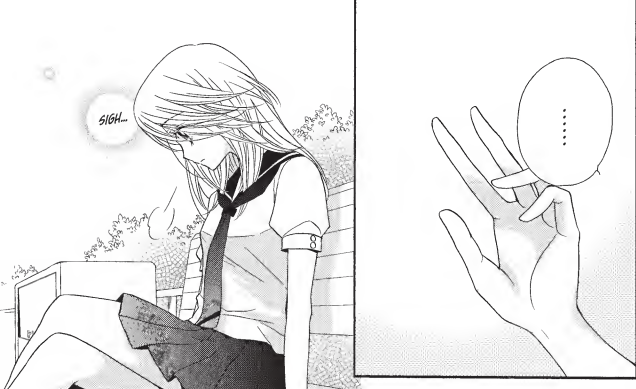
PROBABLY.

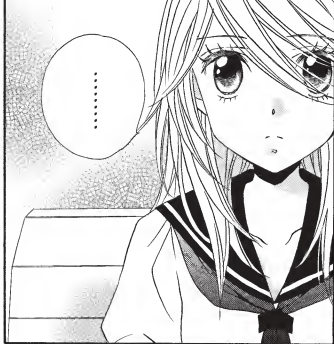


I  
GUESS  
WE'LL HELP  
OUT OUR  
CLASS  
AGAIN  
THIS  
YEAR.

!











BUTANE  
HAIR  
IRON.



IF I LEAVE  
IT BEHIND,  
I GO HOME  
TO GRAB IT.

MY  
MAKE-UP  
BAG!



IT HOLDS MY  
MAKE-UP HAIR IRON,  
NAIL POLISH, CELL  
PHONE CHARGER,  
AND HAIR BANDS.



**GIRL FRIENDS** — ガールフレンズ —



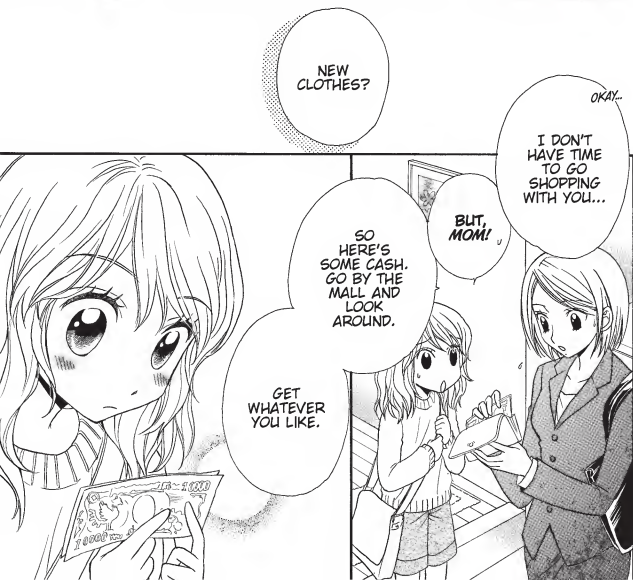
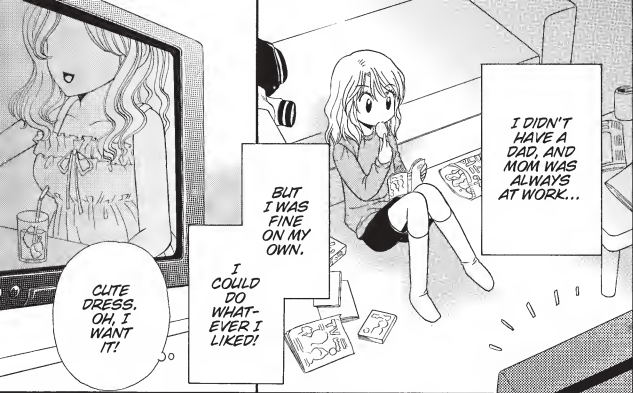


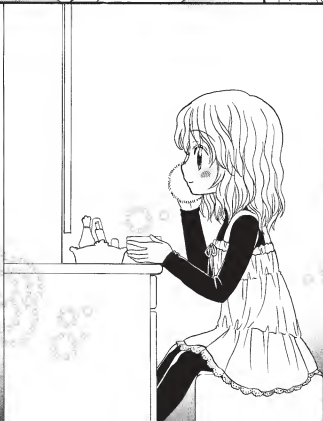
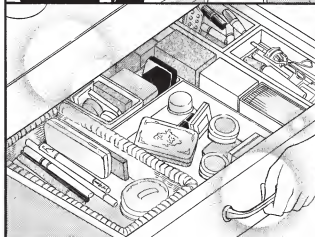
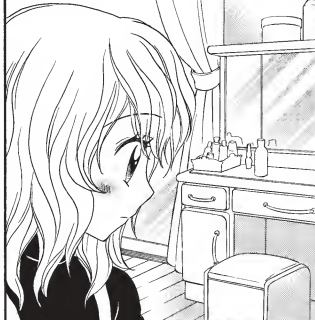
I WASN'T  
SHY OR  
ANYTHING.  
I JUST  
DIDN'T MAKE  
FRIENDS  
EASILY...

IN  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL I  
WAS QUIET  
AND DIDN'T  
STAND OUT  
MUCH.

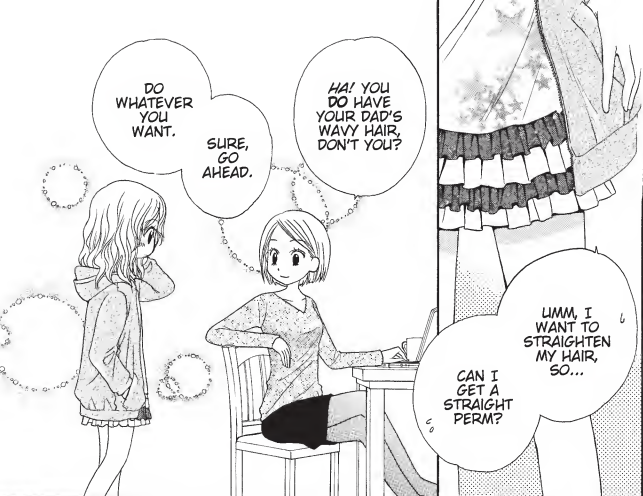
DURING  
RECESS  
I WOULD  
STAY IN  
THE CLASS-  
ROOM BY  
MYSELF.

[CHAPTER 20]









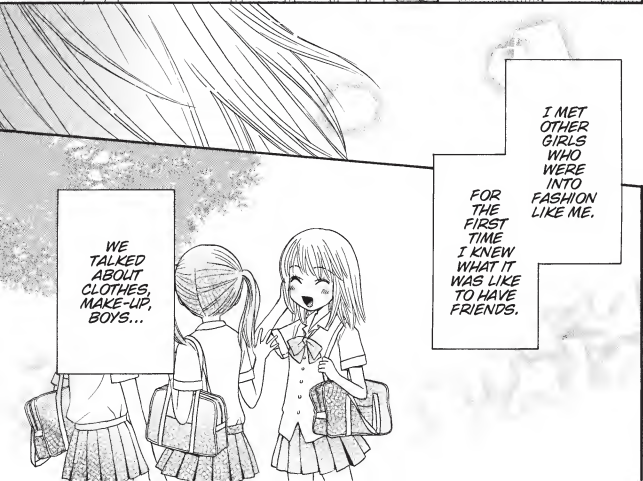
DO  
WHATEVER  
YOU  
WANT.

SURE,  
GO  
AHEAD.

HA! YOU  
DO HAVE  
YOUR DAD'S  
WAVY HAIR,  
DON'T YOU?

CAN I  
GET A  
STRAIGHT  
PERM?

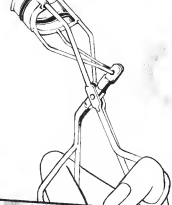
UMM, I  
WANT TO  
STRAIGHTEN  
MY HAIR,  
SO...



WE  
TALKED  
ABOUT  
CLOTHES,  
MAKE-UP,  
BOYS...

FOR  
THE  
FIRST  
TIME  
I KNEW  
WHAT IT  
WAS LIKE  
TO HAVE  
FRIENDS.

I MET  
OTHER  
GIRLS  
WHO  
WERE  
INTO  
FASHION  
LIKE ME.



HEY, AKKO,  
WHERE DID  
YOU GET  
THAT CLEAR  
MASCARA?

IT  
WAS  
THE  
SAME  
THING  
IN HIGH  
SCHOOL.

SUGI-SAN,  
YOU'RE  
EXTRAVAGANT!  
I USE CHEAP  
DEJA VU  
MASCARA.

OH.

IT'S  
NICE AND  
COMPACT.

I  
NORMALLY  
USE LANGOME  
MASCARAS,  
BUT THIS  
ONE'S SO  
PORTABLE!

I  
THINK IT  
WAS JUST A  
CONVENIENCE  
STORE OR  
SOMETHING.

OH,  
THAT WAS  
FEATURED  
IN LIP  
MAGAZINE.  
IT'S PRETTY  
GOOD FOR  
THE PRICE.

UHM.

I USED  
TO READ  
WINGS IN  
JUNIOR  
HIGH.

AND  
WE HAD  
A LOT  
OF FUN  
TALKING  
ABOUT  
STUFF...

I LOVED  
HANGING  
OUT WITH  
PEOPLE  
WHO LIKED  
THE SAME  
THINGS.

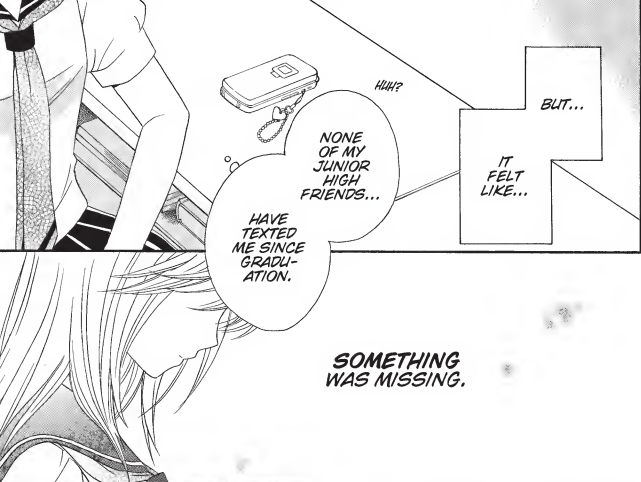
IT'S A  
COSMETICS  
MAGAZINE.  
I CAN LEND  
YOU MY OLD  
COPIES.

DO  
YOU  
READ IT,  
TAMA-  
MIN?

LIP  
MAGA-  
ZINE?

?  
I  
HAVEN'T  
HEARD  
OF THAT  
ONE.







BUT...

A  
SHORTER,  
LIGHTER  
STYLE  
WOULD  
SUIT HER  
MORE.



IF SHE  
CUT IT...

SHE'D  
BE EVEN  
CUTER.



HMM.

"KUMA-  
KURA-  
SAN."

I SEE.

Class Duty  
Kumakura  
Kurii

HUH?  
YOU MEAN  
TODAY'S  
CLASS  
DUTY?

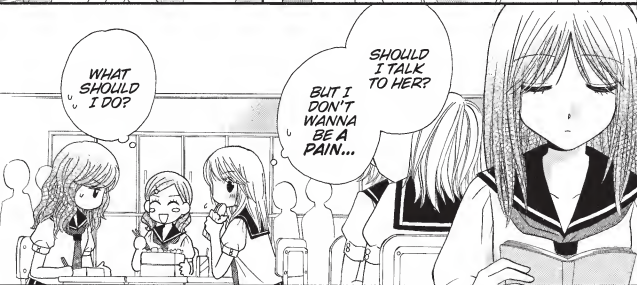
IT'S  
ON THE  
BOARD...  
HER NAME  
IS KUMA-  
KURA.

HEY,  
WHO'S  
THAT  
GIRL?

EHEH.

HAHA...

DON'T  
TELL ME  
YOU DON'T  
KNOW  
EVERYONE IN  
CLASS YET,  
AKKO!



IF...



IF I WERE HER FRIEND, I'D TELL HER...

"IF  
YOU CUT  
YOUR HAIR,  
LOOKED UP,  
SMILED..."

YOU'D  
LOOK  
SUPER  
CUTE!"

THERE  
WERE SO  
MANY  
THINGS  
I WANTED  
TO SHARE  
WITH HER.

I WANTED  
TO TALK  
AND LAUGH  
WITH HER...

OKAY,  
TIME'S UP!  
PASS YOUR  
TESTS  
FORWARD.

1st Year 2nd Term  
Mid-Term  
English  
Makeup Exam

AWWWWW!!

BIING

BOOONG

I JUST  
KNOW SHE  
HAS A  
PRETTY  
SMILE...

WHAT A  
WASTE!

WHAT  
KIND OF  
CLOTHES  
DOES SHE  
LIKE?

WHAT  
BOOKS  
DOES  
SHE  
READ?



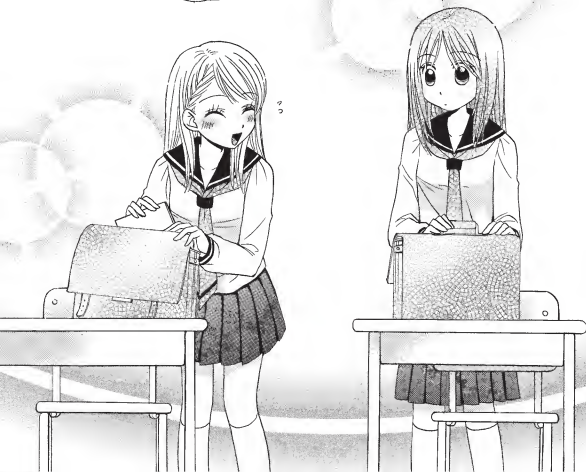
I  
WISH...

UH...

WE COULD BE FRIENDS.

WHAT  
STATION DO  
YOU GO HOME  
THROUGH? IS IT  
HANZOUJON?

MARI-  
CHAN!



I'M  
HAVING A  
GOKON NEXT  
WEEK. ANY  
TAKERS?

HI,  
EVERY-  
ONE!

WHOA!

TAGU-  
CHAN, WHAT  
HAPPENED?

AH!  
SUGI-SAN!  
TAMA-MIN!

OBSERVE.

I TREAT  
SUNBURNS  
IMMEDIATELY.

SHEESH,  
YOU'LL  
STRIP  
ANY-  
WHERE!

GOOD  
GRIEF...

WOW!!

PEARLY

WAH!  
I'D  
LOVE  
TO GO,  
BUT...

PROB-  
ABLY  
NOT A  
GOOD  
IDEA...

WOW!  
YOU  
LOOK  
LIKE  
AN  
ALIEN!

SOB  
SOB

SUGI-SAN,  
YOUR SKIN  
IS SO FAIR!  
HOW DO YOU  
KEEP FROM  
BURNING?

WANNA  
SEE?

EH?

WHITE  
SKIN

TAMA

K

BUT THERE ARE WAYS TO WHITEN YOUR SKIN.

THEY DON'T LAST LONG...

SERIOUSLY?

BUT I KEEP SOME TAN RIGHT HERE.

FLIP♡

BUT WHY...?

I DON'T WANT ANY MORE FRECKLES!

GLOOMP

MASTER!!

PLEASE, TEACH ME HOW TO GET RID OF THIS SUNBURN!

REALLY? WILL THEY GET RID OF SUNBURNS?

DO TELL!! ♡

HUH? WHAT'S THAT LOOK--

EH?

GLARE

.....

IT'S AGAINST SCHOOL RULES!

GYAHHH

I'LL TEACH YOU...

BUT ONLY IF YOU TAKE OFF YOUR SHIRT, TAMA-MIN!!

I WANT TO SEE YOUR SUN-BURN!

GYAHHH!



IT IS  
PRETTY  
BAD...

I LET  
YOU HIDE  
IT UNDER A  
PARKA AT THE  
BEACH, BUT  
NOW I HAVE  
TO SEE  
IT!

COME  
ON! I  
NEED TO  
SEE HOW  
BAD YOUR  
SUNBURN  
IS!

NOOOOO!!  
LET  
GOOOO~!!!

LET  
ME  
SEE!

STOP  
IT!

THERE'S  
HER BACK...

SHE  
WOKE  
THAT CRAZY  
SWIMSUIT TO  
THE POOL,  
AND...

A  
HA  
HA!

DID  
TAMA-MIN  
GET A BAD  
SUNBURN?

SO  
AM I,  
BUT...

MARI...

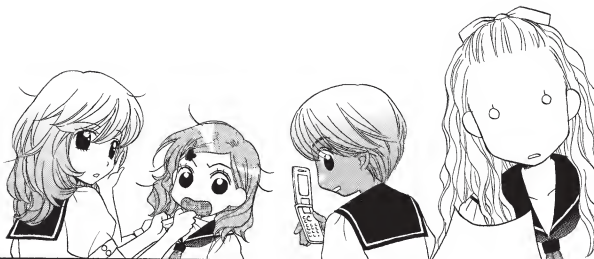
WHY  
CAN'T  
I...

LOOK  
HER  
IN THE  
EYE?

IS  
LAUGH-  
ING AS  
USUAL.



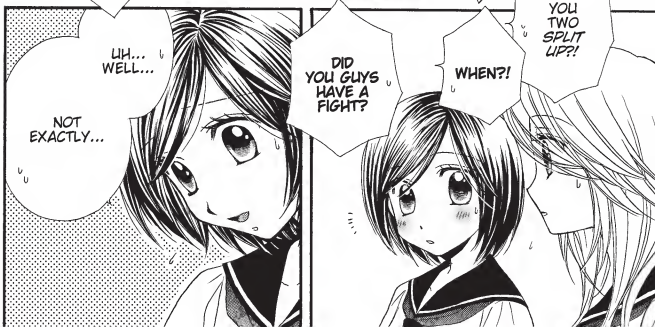




WHAAAAAT?!

SERI-  
OUSLY?!

THAT  
DICK!!



UH...  
WELL...

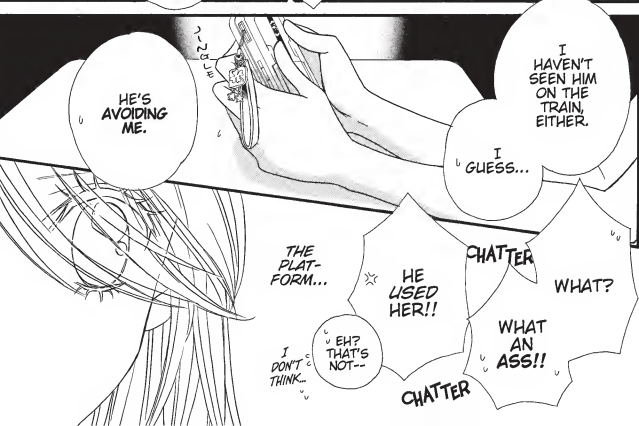
NOT  
EXACTLY...

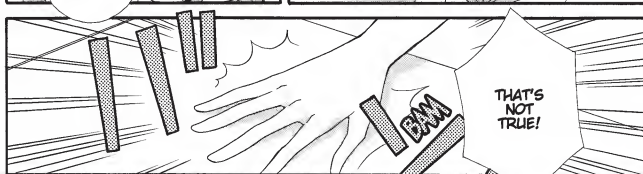
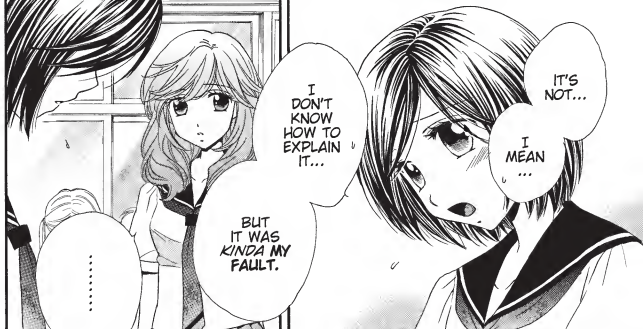
DID  
YOU GUYS  
HAVE A  
FIGHT?

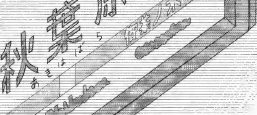
WHEN?!

YOU  
TWO  
SPLIT  
UP?!







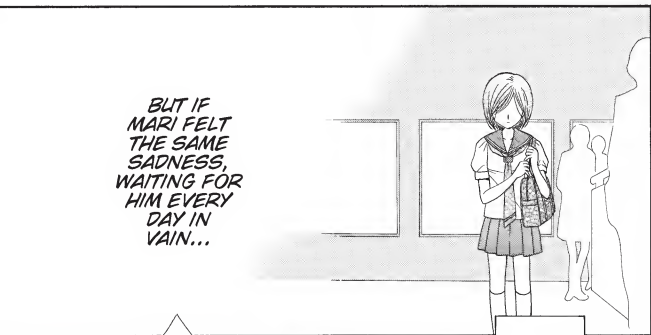


BECAUSE...



EVERY TIME I ARRIVED  
AT HER PLATFORM, I  
WOULD LOOK TO SEE  
IF MARI WAS THERE...

I WAS SO SAD WHEN  
I DIDN'T SEE HER.



BUT IF  
MARI FELT  
THE SAME  
SADNESS,  
WAITING FOR  
HIM EVERY  
DAY IN  
VAIN...

I...

I  
JUST  
WANT  
MARI...  
TO BE  
HAPPY...



EVEN  
IF HER  
SMILE...

ISN'T  
FOR  
ME.

HER SADNESS  
HURTS MORE...

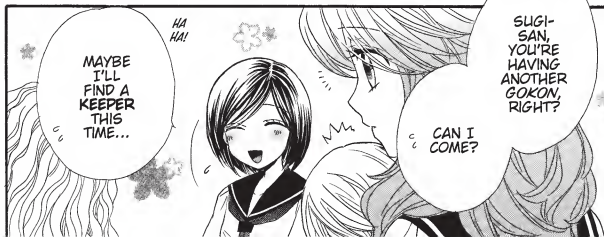
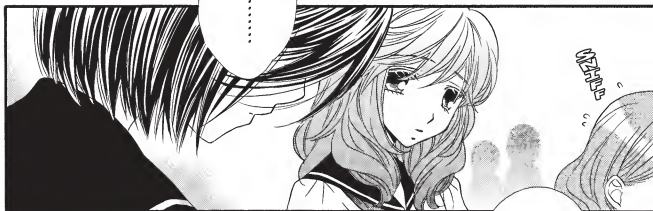
THAN MY  
OWN PAIN.

I  
CAN'T  
TAKE  
THIS.

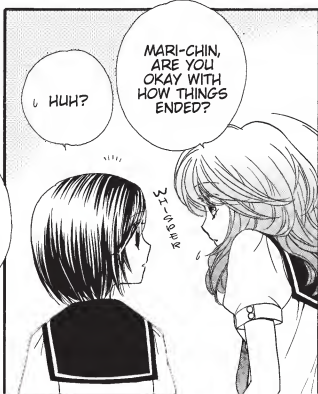
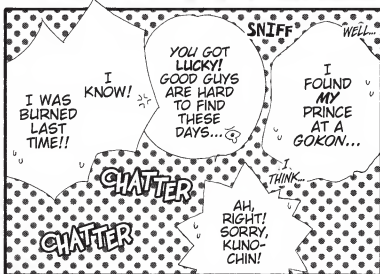
DAMN  
IT...!

AKKO?









BIING  
≠

IT  
GETS TO  
THE POINT  
WHERE YOU  
CAN'T EVEN  
APOLOGIZE  
TO EACH  
OTHER...

OR SAY  
THE THINGS  
YOU NEED  
TO SAY.

BOONG  
コ

GRIP

...

BUT I  
THINK SHE  
AGREED  
TO SEE  
HIM ONE  
LAST  
TIME.

I  
COULDN'T  
HEAR WHAT  
MARI SAID,  
BECAUSE  
OF THE  
SCHOOL  
BELL...

AND  
TAMA-  
MIN  
BLOWING  
HER  
NOSE.

MY  
HEART  
ACHED SO  
MUCH...  
I COULDN'T  
SAY ANY-  
THING.

BEENG  
カ

BOONG  
コ



SQUEE!

A  
PHOTO  
OF MY  
PRINCE!

IF WE  
EVER GET  
SEPARATED IN A  
DISASTER, I CAN  
USE THIS PIC  
TO FIND HIM!

**GIRL FRIENDS** — ガールフレンズ —

LAST NIGHT, I WENT THROUGH A BUNCH OF "WHAT IF" SCENARIOS.



IF...

AND HE  
SINCERELY  
APOLOGIZES  
TO MARI...

AND HE  
STILL LIKES  
HER...

IF...  
HE'S A  
NICE  
GUY...

click

YEAH,  
RIGHT!

AND IF  
THEY GET  
BACK  
TOGETHER...

HUFF



# [CHAPTER 21]

I'LL SMILE  
AND BE HAPPY  
FOR HER.



UH, HI.  
LONG TIME  
NO SEE.

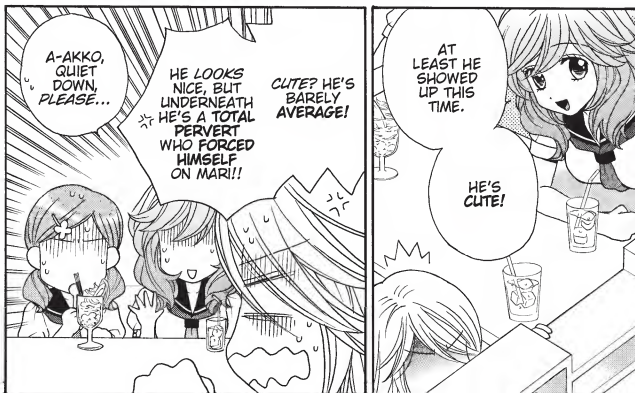
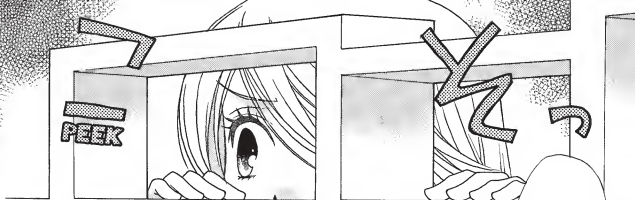
YEAH...

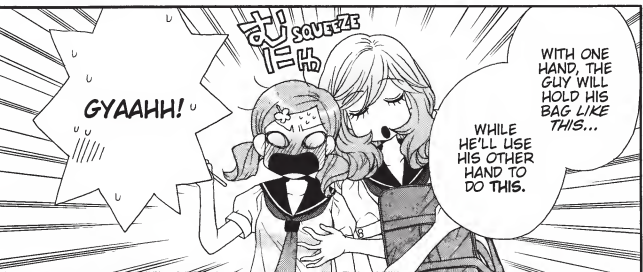
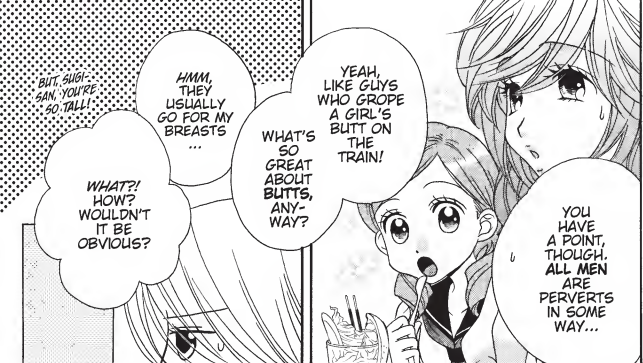
I'M  
SORRY  
ABOUT  
LAST TIME...  
THERE WAS  
AN EMER-  
GENCY...

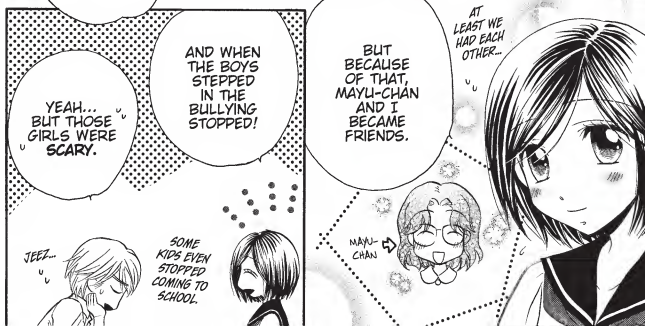
AND  
MY CELL  
PHONE  
BATTERY  
DIED.

EHEH...

I  
SEE.









.....

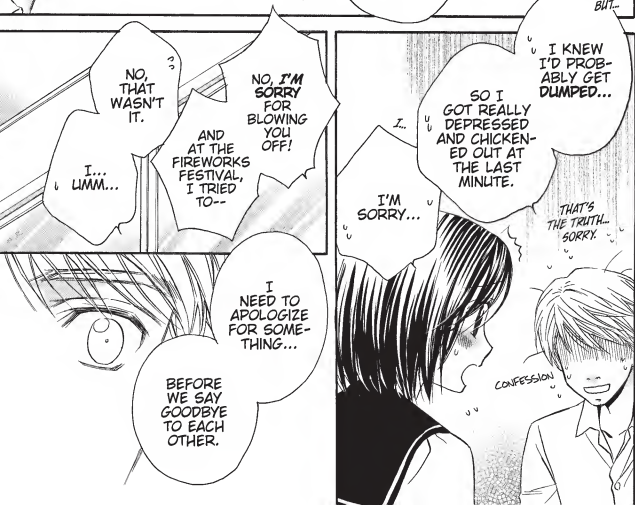
BUT I WAS GLAD I GOT A VALENTINE'S CHOCOLATE FROM YOU, KUMAKURA.

MY FRIEND TOLD ME I WAS STUPID TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

ESPECIALLY SINCE WE HADN'T SEEN EACH OTHER SINCE THE FESTIVAL...

HEH...

BUT...



NO, THAT WASN'T IT.

NO, I'M SORRY FOR BLOWING YOU OFF!

AND AT THE FIREWORKS FESTIVAL, I TRIED TO--

I... UMM...

SO I GOT REALLY DEPRESSED AND CHICKENED OUT AT THE LAST MINUTE.

I KNEW I'D PROBABLY GET DUMPED...

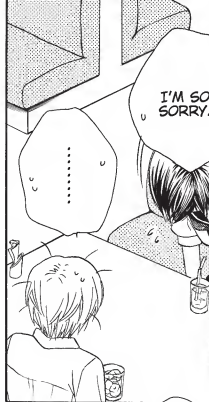
I'M SORRY...

THAT'S THE TRUTH... SORRY.

I NEED TO APOLOGIZE FOR SOMETHING...

BEFORE WE SAY GOODBYE TO EACH OTHER.

CONFESSION



I'M SO SORRY.

BUT THERE'S NO WAY I COULD BE WITH THAT PERSON.

I... I LIKE SOMEONE ELSE...

SO I WENT OUT WITH YOU INSTEAD...



I JUST DIDN'T WANT TO HURT YOUR FEELINGS.

I'M REALLY SORRY!

I MEAN, IT'S NOT EVEN YOUR FAULT, HARADA-KUN!

I UNDERSTAND IF YOU WANT TO DUMP ME...

OH... I SEE...

YOU SHOULD'VE SAID SO IN THE FIRST PLACE!

KUMA-KURA IS TOO HONEST...



JUST A STUPID GUY THING, I GUESS.

I THOUGHT ...

I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO DUMP YOU THAN TO GET DUMPED.

OKAY, I GUESS WE'RE SQUARE THEN.

HUH?





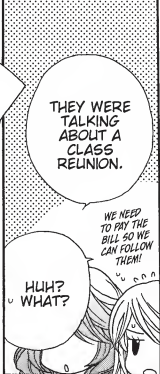




HEY!

AKKO,  
WE'LL PAY  
YOU BACK  
LATER!

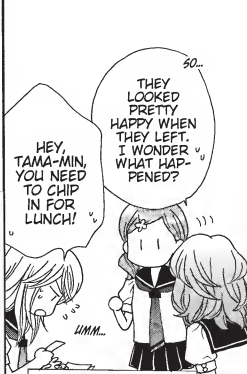
THANK  
YOU FOR  
COMING...



THEY WERE  
TALKING  
ABOUT A  
CLASS  
REUNION.

HUH?  
WHAT?

WE NEED  
TO PAY THE  
BILL SO WE  
CAN FOLLOW  
THEM!



HEY,  
TAMA-MIN,  
YOU NEED  
TO CHIP  
IN FOR  
LUNCH!

SO...  
THEY  
LOOKED  
PRETTY  
HAPPY WHEN  
THEY LEFT.  
I WONDER  
WHAT HAP-  
PENED?

UHM...



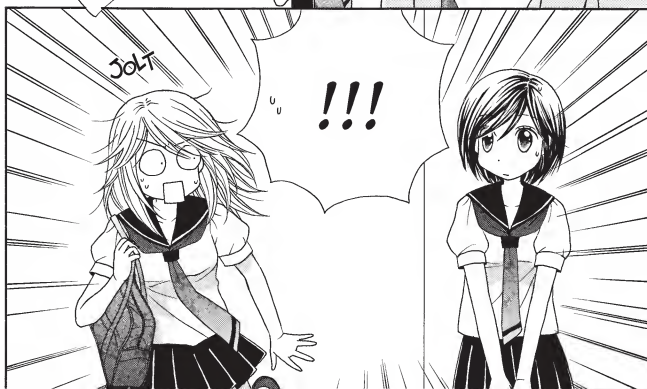
PUSH IN  
FAST!

REALLY,  
YOU  
TWO--



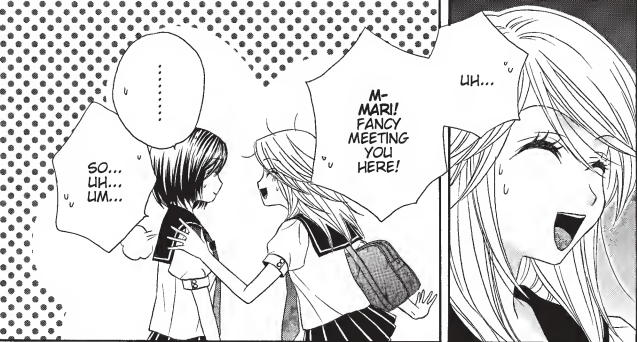
WAIT!  
JEEZ!!

DON'T  
LEAVE ME  
BEHIND!



JOLT

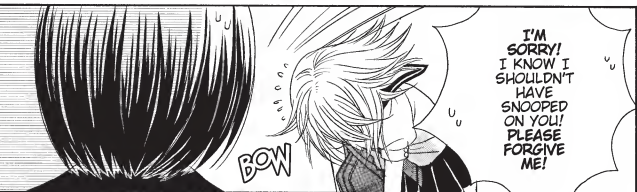
!!!



SO...  
UH...  
UM...

M-  
MARI!  
FANCY  
MEETING  
YOU  
HERE!

UH...



BOW

I'M  
SORRY!  
I KNOW I  
SHOULDN'T  
HAVE  
SNOOPED  
ON YOU!  
PLEASE  
FORGIVE  
ME!



FOR  
REAL?!

WHAT?!

I  
BROKE  
UP WITH  
HARADA-  
KUN.

BUT WE  
COULDN'T  
HEAR YOUR  
CONVER-  
SATION!

SOOO...  
UMMM--

I'M  
SORRY,  
TOO...



UM...

ACK?

ME?!  
SUPPORT-  
IVE?! BUT I  
WASN'T--!

I MEAN,  
I'LL ALWAYS  
HAVE YOUR  
BACK, MARI!

HUH?



AKKO,  
YOU'VE  
BEEN  
REALLY  
SUPPORT-  
IVE, BUT--

HUH?  
WHY  
IS SHE  
APOLO-  
GIZING  
TO ME?



GO,  
MARI!

WAIT!

WOOOOO!

OH...

BUT YOU  
GUYS SPLIT  
UP, HUH?  
YAY?



WAS SHE  
ACTUALLY  
DUMPED? SHE  
DOESN'T  
LOOK  
TOO SAD  
ABOUT  
IT...

I  
NEED TO  
COMFORT  
HER!

AND  
THE BEST  
WAY TO  
DO THAT  
IS...

OH  
SHOOT!  
NO NO  
NO!!

NOW'S  
NOT THE  
TIME FOR  
A HAPPY  
DANCE!



WHERE ARE TAMA-MIN AND SUGI-SAN WHEN YOU NEED THEM?!

LET'S GO!

WE'RE ON THE SECOND FLOOR!

I WONDER IF WE CAN LAST TWO HOURS. I DON'T KNOW THAT MANY SONGS...

EARLIER

UHM... SURE...

OR HELL, WE COULD EVEN HAVE A GOKON BEFORE THAT...

TRY AND ROUND UP SOME GUYS FOR A GOKON AT THE CLASS REUNION.

THEY'RE HERE.

BY THE WAY, DO YOU COSPLAY? WE NEED MORE BOYS IN OUR CLUB...

ARE THEY HER FRIENDS?

THEY'RE WEARING THE SAME UNIFORM AS KUMAKURA.

WHO ARE THESE GIRLS?

THERE ARE PLENTY OF GIRLS OUT THERE! YOU'LL BE FINE!!

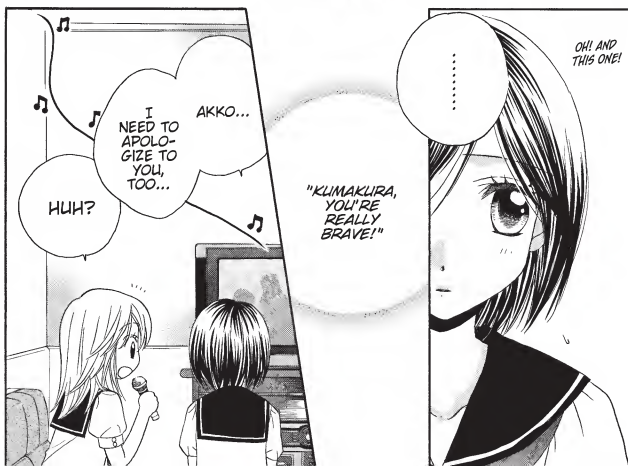
THEY'LL PROBABLY BREAK-UP, SO LET'S LET AKKO TAKE CARE OF MARI...

WHAT? AND WE TAKE CARE OF THE BOYFRIEND? ONLY IF HE'S CUTE!

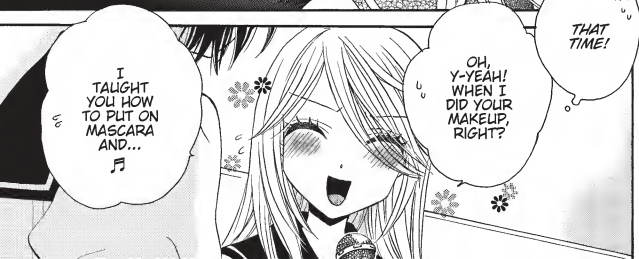
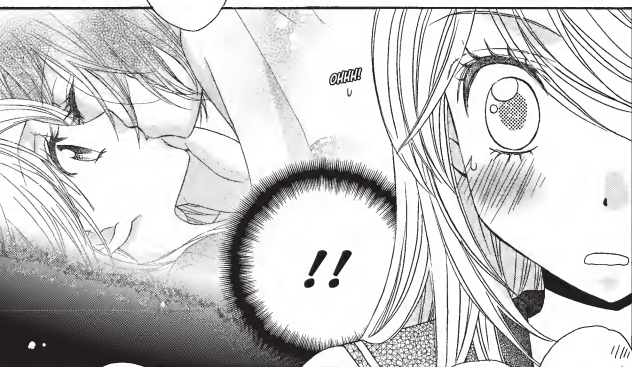
WELL, YEAH...

WANNA TRY ON A LELOUCH OUTFIT?









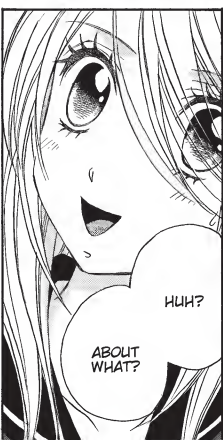


THAT  
WAS  
FUN! WE  
SHOULD  
DO IT  
AGAIN!



CURLING  
YOUR EYE-  
LASHES  
IS GOOD  
ENOUGH IN  
A PINCH,  
BUT...

I WANT  
TO TRY SOME  
EYE SHADOW  
NEXT TIME...



WHEN  
I SAID  
I DIDN'T  
MEAN  
IT...



I LIED.

HUH?

ABOUT  
WHAT?



WHEN  
I...

TOLD  
YOU...

THAT  
IT WAS  
A BAD  
JOKE.

EH?



MY  
LOVE...  
IT'LL  
NEVER  
HAPPEN!



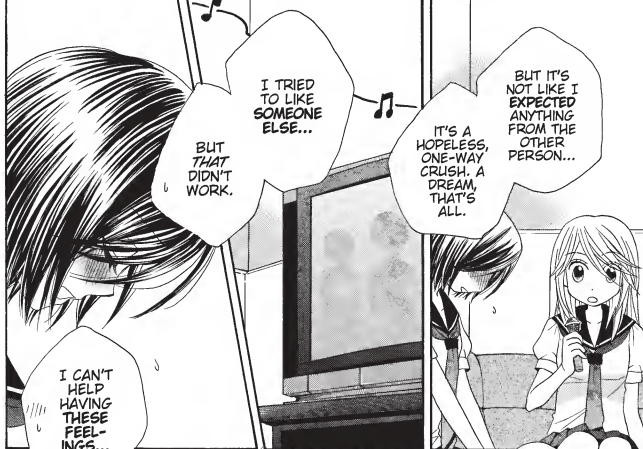
I  
WANTED  
TO TEASE  
YOU...

AKKO...  
YOU WERE  
RIGHT...

SO I  
PLAYED  
A MEAN  
JOKE  
ON YOU,  
AKKO.

WITH  
SOME-  
ONE.

I  
WAS IN  
LOVE...



I TRIED  
TO LIKE  
SOMEONE  
ELSE...

BUT  
THAT  
DIDN'T  
WORK.

IT'S A  
HOPELESS,  
ONE-WAY  
CRUSH. A  
DREAM,  
THAT'S  
ALL.

BUT IT'S  
NOT LIKE I  
EXPECTED  
ANYTHING  
FROM THE  
OTHER  
PERSON...

I CAN'T  
HELP  
HAVING  
THESE  
FEEL-  
INGS...



BUT I  
PROMISE  
I'LL NEVER  
ACT ON  
THEM,  
AKKO.

SO...  
IF WE  
COULD  
STILL BE  
FRIENDS...  
I'D BE  
REALLY  
HAPPY.

UHM...

THAT'S  
ALL...

I  
WANTED  
TO  
SAY!

AHA...

I THOUGHT  
THROUGH A  
BUNCH OF  
"WHAT IF"  
SCENARIOS...



Ummm...

WELL,  
UH...

BUT I  
NEVER...

PLANNED  
FOR THIS.





UM...

I'M  
NOT  
GAY!

WELL,  
I'M NOT  
SURE,  
BUT--

WAVE  
WAVE

IS MY  
FACE  
RED?

BJGJZ

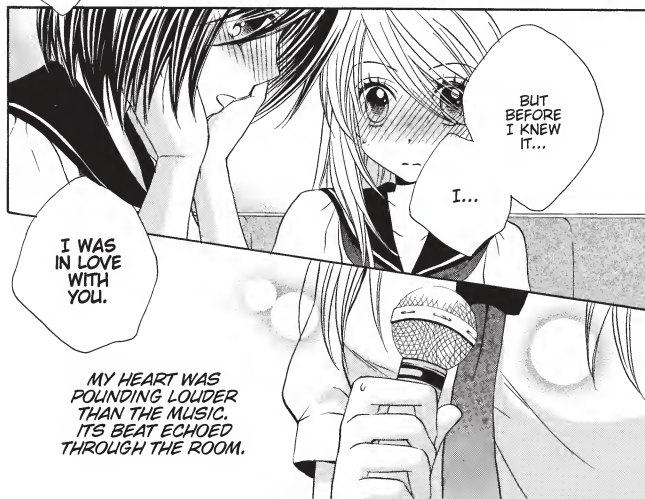
UH...  
UMMM...

SO  
THAT  
MEANS  
...?

JEEZ...

OH MY  
GOSH...

OKAY...!!!



BUT  
BEFORE  
I KNEW  
IT...

I...

I WAS  
IN LOVE  
WITH  
YOU.

MY HEART WAS  
POUNDING LOUDER  
THAN THE MUSIC.  
ITS BEAT ECHOED  
THROUGH THE ROOM.





I'M SO SORRY!

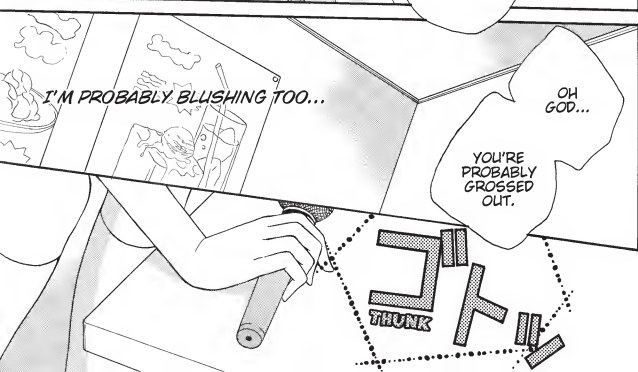
I  
DIDN'T  
MEAN TO  
LOOK  
AT YOU  
LIKE THAT!  
I'LL STOP,  
RIGHT NOW!

HER FACE WAS SO RED...



EVEN HER FINGERS  
AND EARS WERE AS  
RED AS A TOMATO.

WHY IS SHE  
APOLOGIZING?

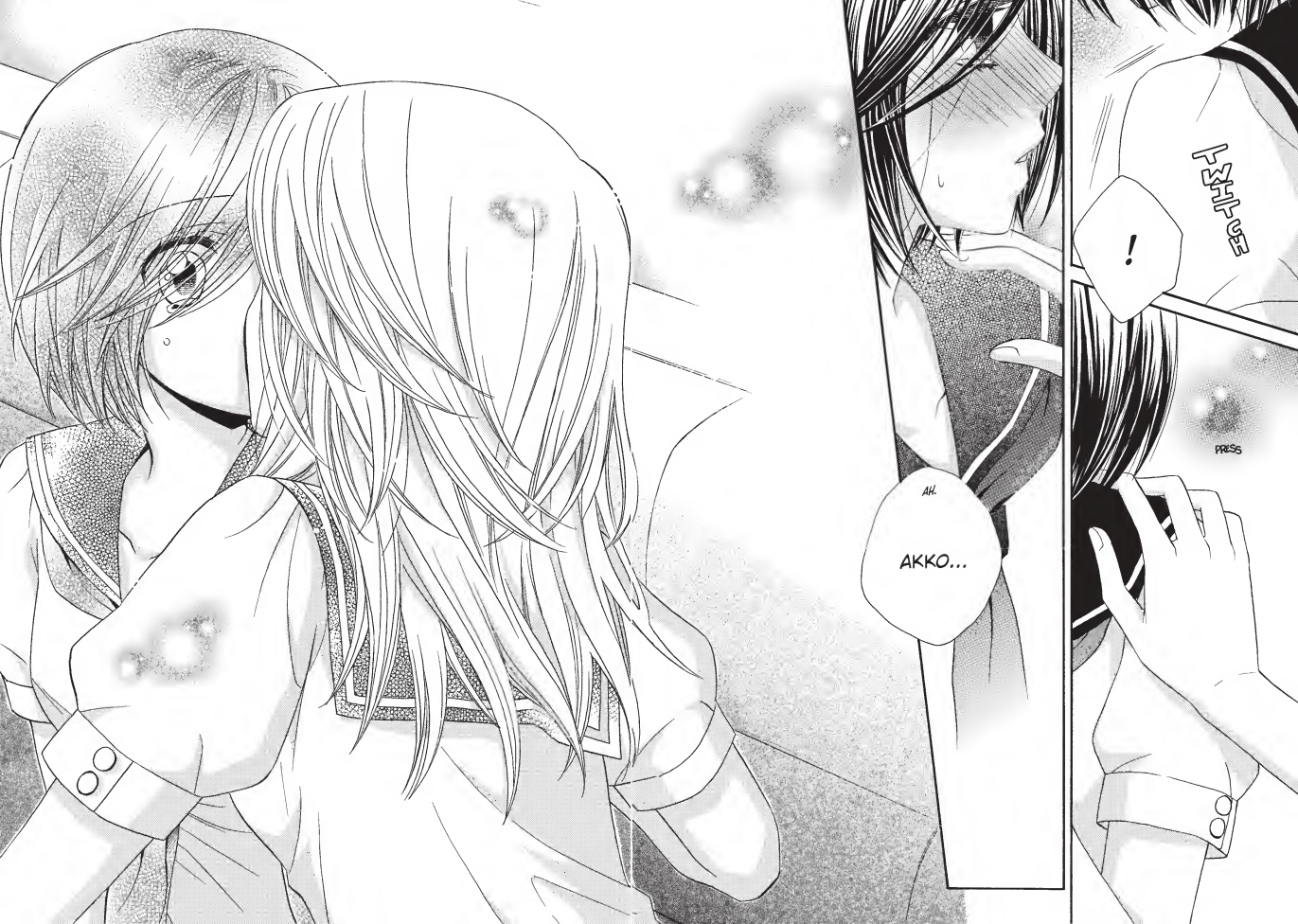


I'M PROBABLY BLUSHING TOO...

OH  
GOD...

YOU'RE  
PROBABLY  
GROSSED  
OUT.

ゴト  
THUNK



AKKO...

AH.

アッコ

!

PRESS

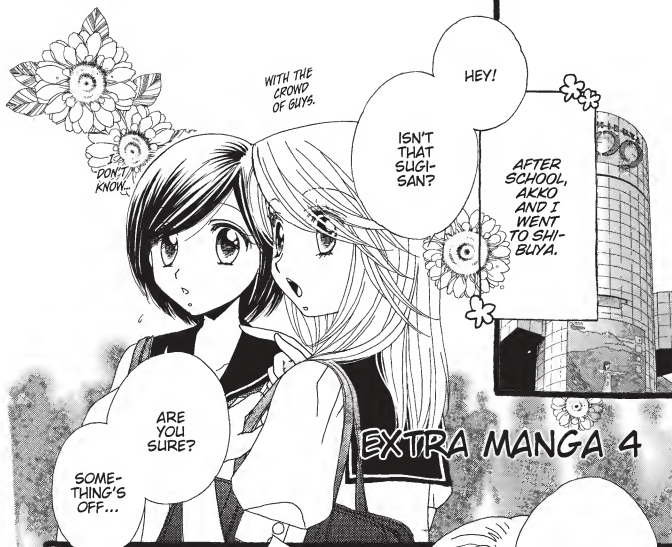
MARI'S  
LIPS FELT  
SO RIGHT.

I WISHED...

I WISHED  
WE COULD  
STAY LIKE  
THIS  
FOREVER...

AS I  
CLOSED  
MY  
EYES.

**GIRL FRIENDS** — ガールフレンズ —





ば  
MUFFLE  
る  
っ

SUGI-  
SAN'S HAND

PEW  
MMF!

I  
ALMOST  
DIDN'T  
RECOGNIZE  
YOU!

ESPECIALLY  
IN THAT  
UNIFORM--

ISN'T IT  
CUTE?

GUYS  
LOVE  
THIS  
LOOK.  
♡

NO,  
SORRY!  
THEY'RE MY  
FRIENDS  
FROM A  
DIFFERENT  
SCHOOL.

♡  
HEHE!  
♡

OH? ARE  
YOU HERE  
FOR THE  
GOKON,  
TOO?  
♡

WOW,  
THEY'RE  
HOT!

MFFT!

EXCUSE  
US...

SORRY,  
SORRY!  
♡

WHAT'S  
GOING  
ON, SUGI-  
SAN?!

I  
BORROWED  
THIS FROM  
A FRIEND AT  
ANOTHER  
SCHOOL...

♡

WHY  
ARE YOU  
WEARING A  
DIFFERENT  
SCHOOL  
UNIFORM?

GASP!

IN THE  
BATHROOM.

SMILE



CHANGING  
ROOM

CAN YOU  
TWO JUST  
PRETEND  
THAT I GO  
TO ANOTHER  
SCHOOL?

IT'S  
WORTH  
SO... IT!

ALL  
THIS  
FOR A  
GOKON?

DON'T  
YOU  
THINK  
YOU'RE  
TRYING  
TOO  
HARD?

ME  
TOO!

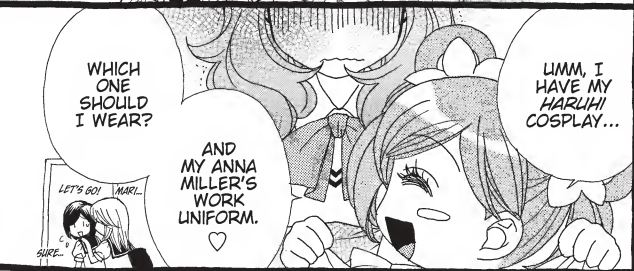
MISS CURE  
DREAM,  
REPORTING  
FOR DUTY!  
♡

PLEASE  
JUST  
PRETEND  
THAT  
I'M--

\*NOTE:  
TAMA-MIN

\*NOTE 2:  
DON'T USE THE  
RESTROOM TO  
CHANGE INTO  
YOUR COSTUME.

BEER



AKKO?!  
WHAT'S  
GOING  
ON?!

PRESENT  
FOR YOU!

EEEK!  
HELP ME,  
MARI!

EXTRA  
MANGA 5

A  
STRAY  
CAT  
DRAGGED  
IN A  
TINY  
AKKO.

ONE  
DAY...

WHAT  
THE...?

SHE'S  
SO...  
CUTE!

FORGIVE  
ME, AKKO...

I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT  
HAPPENED!

WHAT  
SHOULD  
I DO?

THEY  
FEEL  
NICE!  
♡

YOUR  
BREASTS  
ARE SO  
SOFT AND  
WARM!

YOU  
'RECOVER  
QUICKLY.

YAY!  
WE'RE  
GOING  
FOR A  
RIDE!  
♡

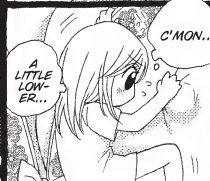
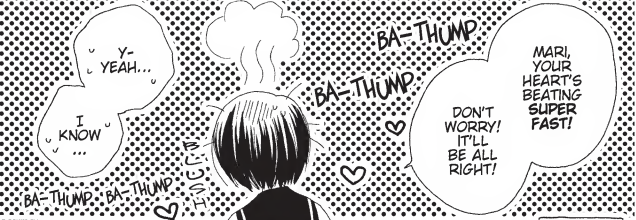
I HID  
AKKO  
IN MY  
SHIRT  
AND  
WENT  
TO  
SCHOOL  
...

THIS IS  
ACTUALLY  
KIND OF  
FUN.  
♡

I'LL  
HIDE  
IN  
YOUR  
BRA!!

UMM...!!!

OKAY...



I ONLY HAD TWO PAGES FOR THIS. TO BE CONTINUED...

SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

# GIRLFRIENDS

story and art by **MILK MORINAGA** **VOLUME 3**

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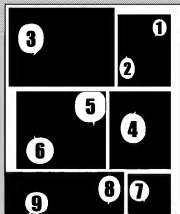
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## READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from *right to left*, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but it's the way manga is read.





# Where does friendship end and love begin...?

When it comes to grades, bookish high school student Kumakura Mariko is at the top of her class—but socially, she's at the bottom. Shy and introverted, she usually eats her lunch alone. Enter the charismatic and gorgeous Ohashi Akiko, whose goal is to become Mariko's new BFF and burst her out of her timid shell.

In the process of transforming “Plain Jane” Mariko into one of the cutest, most popular girls in school, deep feelings begin to emerge that suggest something more than friendship. Will these feelings destroy the budding relationship between Mariko and Akiko, or will it blossom into something else?

This collection contains the first two-and-a-half volumes of *Girl Friends*, written and illustrated by Japanese yuri icon Milk Morinaga.



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MANGA

